

The X Factory

Junior Script

by

Gawen Robinson

Ideal Cast Size 50-60

Speaking Roles 31

Minimum Cast Size 25

Duration (minutes) 60 to 80

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CAST LIST

In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

Students of St Dithers

Davey	(53)
Izzy	(66)
*Joe	(34)
Fraser	(38)
*Emma	(33)
*Rachel	(34)

Staff of St Dithers

Mrs Crabtree	(59)
Mr Potter	(29)
Madam Onions	(14)
Mr Quaver	(19)
Miss Findley	(14)
Mrs Fudge	(11)
Mr Sprout	(15)
Wilf Sprocket	(32)
Gladys Overall	(25)

Superstar Announcers

Bant	(47)
Beck	(45)
Announcer	(3)

Superstar Teachers

*Simon Trowel	(82)
*Bruno Macaroni	(20)
*Craig Rebel-Cardboard	(34)
*Cherri Cola	(17)
*Will.I.Was	(23)
*Dusty Barrel	(20)

Ofset Inspection Team

Ms Grimshaw	(42)
Miss Blunt	(7)
Safety Inspector	(35)

Super-Talented Students

Sophie Le Brie	(13)
Daphne Gorgonzola	(5)
Chadwick Roquefort	(5)
*Jenny Lane	(12)

In addition to the Characters listed above, an additional Chorus will be required.

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

*Simon Trowel	82
Izzy	66
Mrs Crabtree.....	59
Davey	53
Bant	47
Beck.....	45
Ms Grimshaw.....	42
Fraser	38
Safety Inspector.....	35
*Rachel.....	34
*Joe	34
*Craig Rebel-Cardboard	34
*Emma.....	33
Wilf Sprocket	32
Mr Potter.....	29
Gladys Overall	25
*Will.I.Was	23
*Dusty Barrel	20
*Bruno Macaroni.....	20
Mr Quaver.....	19
*Cherri Cola	17
Mr Sprout.....	15
Madam Onions	14
Miss Findley.....	14
Sophie Le Brie	13
*Jenny Lane.....	12
Mrs Fudge	11
Miss Blunt	7
Chadwick Roquefort	5
Daphne Gorgonzola	5
Announcer	3

Non speaking roles: Students, Teachers and 'Super-Students' – as many as you wish! The addition of a Chorus sitting offstage is also recommended, if available.

SUGGESTED CAST LIST FOR 25 ACTORS

In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

*Simon Trowel	82
Izzy	66
Mrs Crabtree.....	59
Davey	53
Bant	47
Beck.....	45
Ms Grimshaw.....	42
Mr Sprout.....also plays Safety Inspector	40
Miss Findley.....also plays Gladys Overall ¹	39
Fraser	38
Chadwick Roquefort.....also plays Wilf Sprocket ²	37
*Rachel.....	34
*Joe	34
*Craig Rebel-Cardboard	34
*Emma.....	33
Mr Potter.....	29
*Jenny Lane.....also plays Sophie Le Brie ³	25
*Will.I.Was	23
Miss Blunt.....also plays Madam Onions ⁴	21
*Dusty Barrel	20
*Bruno Macaroni.....	20
Mr Quaver.....	19
*Cherri Cola	17
Mrs Fudge	11
Daphne Gorgonzola.....also plays Announcer	8

Notes:

¹This involves a quick change from Scene Eight to Scene Nine. Also, Miss Findley's line in Scene Eleven will need to be reallocated to another teacher character.

²This involves a quick change in Scene Eleven.

³The actor will need to read both parts as 'Jenny' in Scene Eleven.

⁴This will involve a very quick change in Scene Eleven.

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Scene One**

Mrs Crabtree
 Mr Quaver
 Mr Sprout
 Ms Grimshaw
 Miss Blunt
 Mr Potter
 Mrs Fudge
 Miss Findley
 Madam Onions

Scene Two

Mr Potter
 Mrs Fudge
 Mr Sprout
 Miss Findley
 Madam Onions
 Mr Quaver
 Mrs Crabtree

Scene Three

Davey
 Izzy
 Fraser
 Joe
 Emma
 Rachel

Scene Four

Simon
 Davey
 Izzy
 Fraser
 Dusty
 Bruno
 Craig
 Emma
 Rachel
 Will.I.Was
 Cherri
 Joe

Scene Five

Bant
 Beck
 Bruno
 Dusty
 Craig
 Sophie
 Davey
 Chad
 Daphne
 Fraser
 Izzy

Scene Six

Bant
 Beck

Scene Seven

Bant
 Beck
 Jenny Lane
 Simon
 Cherri
 Will.I.Was
 Emma
 Rachel
 Joe

Scene Eight

Fraser
Izzy
Joe
Davey
Emma
Rachel
Mr Sprout
Mr Potter
Miss Findley
Mr Quaver
Madam Onions
Mrs Fudge
Extra characters as available.

Scene Nine

Wilf
Gladys
Safety Inspector
Announcer

Scene Ten

Fraser
Joe
Emma
Rachel
Izzy
Davey
Simon
Will.I.Was
Craig
Cherri
Bruno
Dusty

Scene Eleven

Simon
Sophie
Dusty
Will.I.Was
Bruno
Cherri
Ms Grimshaw
Daphne
Chad
Craig
Miss Blunt
Davey
Izzy
Emma
Rachel
Fraser
Mrs Crabtree
Joe
Jenny Lane
Mr Potter
Mr Sprout
Madam Onions
Miss Findley
Mrs Fudge
Gladys
Wilf
Mr Quaver
Bant
Beck
Safety Inspector
Extra characters as available

LIST OF PROPERTIES**Scene One**

Chairs for teachers and Offset inspectors..... Stage Props
 School piano/keyboard Stage Prop
 Clipboard Ms Grimshaw
 Enormous document file Miss Blunt

Scene Two

Large suitcase Mrs Crabtree
 Chairs/sofas as desired Stage Props

Scene Three

School letter..... Izzy
 School letter..... Emma

Scene Four

Talent show panel (with X Factory on) Stage Prop
 Chairs/stools for 'super' staff Stage Props

Scene Five

Talent show panel (with X Factory on) Stage Prop
 Chairs/stools for 'super' staff Stage Props
 2 fake hand held microphones..... Bant & Beck
 Large score cards showing 9 & 0 Dusty
 Large score cards showing 8 & 0 Bruno
 Large score cards showing 5 & 0 Craig

Scene Six

2 fake hand held microphones..... Bant & Beck

Scene Seven

Talent show panel (with X Factory on) Stage Prop
 Chairs/stools for 'super' staff Stage Props
 2 fake hand held microphones..... Bant & Beck
 Note pads and pens The Judges

Scene Eight

Cap..... Mr Sprout

Scene Nine

Chairs in disarray.....	Stage Props
Signed photos.....	Stage Props
Will's chair (gum underneath).....	Stage Prop
Broom.....	Wilf
Cloth/cleaning equipment.....	Gladys
Clipboard & pen.....	Safety Inspector
Tape Measure	Safety Inspector

Scene Ten

Dance costumes.....	Stage Props
Ripped costumes.....	Hidden on stage
Laptop/computer.....	Stage Prop
Hats, scarves and stockings.....	Rebels
Torches.....	Rebels
Pink (or brightly-coloured) stocking	Joe
Screwdriver.....	Joe
Scissors (large).....	Emma
Headphones	Fraser

Scene Eleven

Chairs (each side of stage).....	Stage Props
School piano/keyboard	Stage Prop
Ripped costumes.....	Stage Props
Laptop/computer.....	Stage Prop
Clipboards	Ms Grimshaw/Safety Inspector
Ripped costumes.....	Sophie & Super-Students
Various musical instruments.....	Dithers' Staff
2 fake hand-held microphones	Bant & Beck

PRODUCTION NOTES

STAGING

The acting area can vary according to the space available. It can be a conventional school stage or floor area, with staging built at the back of a floor acting space, or the action can be performed 'in the round' if desired.

Suggestions for scenery are given below. Backdrops can be as simple or elaborate as you wish. However, for a really easy solution and fuss free performance, instant scenery is now available with our digital backdrops: Project It! provides a different backdrop for EVERY scene change and is supplied in both a PowerPoint presentation and as individual JPG files.

Scene One – ‘St Dithers School Assembly’: This scene should look like a school hall and should (preferably) have a piano or keyboard to the side. It could have a backdrop of the St Dithers school logo or school memorabilia etc.

Scene Two – ‘St Dithers Staff Room’: This scene should look as much like a traditional school staff room as possible and can take place either in the centre with a few chairs added, or to the side of the main acting area.

Scene Three – ‘The Schoolyard’: This scene requires no scenery or staging as it is set in a schoolyard. Everyone is standing so it can be set in any open space available.

Scene Four – ‘The School Hall’: This scene is again set in the main school hall (similar to Scene One). This time, Simon Trowel and his team are leading proceedings, so a panel (as in a celebrity game show) would look good. This could be a very simple construction by using card with a design saying ‘X Factory’ on the front of it.

Scene Five – ‘Dance Auditions’: This scene requires an open space so that the dancing can take place. The judges/teachers can be sat behind the panel (similar to Scene Four) where they can sit during the actual auditions and produce their scorecards. The students who have been rejected can sit on the opposite side of the stage or to the front.

Scene Six: – ‘Interlude’: This is essentially a transition scene so that the vocal coaches can replace the dancers. Bant and Beck can be in front of the proceedings as the actors change places behind the panel (similar to the ones used in Scene Four and Five).

Scene Seven – ‘Vocal Auditions’: This scene again uses the panel for the judges/teachers as in the previous scenes. The chair that ‘Will.I.Was’ sits on, however, should be a swivel chair so that he can easily turn around when required (as in ‘The Voice’).

Scene Eight – ‘The Schoolyard’: This scene is similar to Scene Three, as it requires no scenery or staging. The old staff can enter from one of the wings as they are supposed to be outside the school gates. You might have something to represent the gate. A practical alternative might be to move this scene in front of the audition scene so that the panel desk can remain in place.

Scene Nine – ‘After The Auditions’: This scene should look like the aftermath of Scene Seven with the addition of bits of paper (if possible some signed photos of Simon) and rubbish strewn around the floor. You can make this look as messy as possible. It is important that the costumes (hanging up) and the laptop (or sound equipment on Will’s desk space) are left onstage so that the following scene can run directly on from this one.

Scene Ten – ‘Later That Night’: This follows on directly from the previous scene but with the lights slightly dimmed so that it looks like it is the evening. The costumes must be hanging up and the laptop needs to be on the set so that both can be tampered with. There should be places on the set where the rebels can hide.

Scene Eleven – ‘The Showcase’: The scene follows on directly from the previous night-time scene but must look bright and ‘glitzy’. The judges/teachers again sit behind their panel; Will must be next to his laptop/equipment. The old staff should be hidden behind the school piano/keyboard (preferably with musical instruments). Mr Quaver will mime playing the piano to Track 38.

CHOREOGRAPHY/MOVEMENT

- ‘The School Song’:** The students and staff should be sitting or standing still and should look bored. Mr Quaver should be positioned behind the school piano or something that looks like one.
- ‘Average’** During this song the teachers are in one group while the students form another. They should use strong, fist pumping type gestures to emphasise how they feel.
- ‘Average (Reprise)’:** The teachers are again protesting angrily but this time alone. A stage-side Chorus can also join in to increase the volume in the final chorus.
- ‘Rap Pack’:** Emma and Rachel need to adopt ‘hip-hop’ movements and actions during this short rap. They can follow the suggestion within the lyrics for things such as ‘Taking Selfies’, being on their phones and pointing in a rap style.
- ‘The X Factor’:** This song is lively and punchy and requires lots of posing and character acting from the soloists. During the chorus a suggestion would be for the cast to cross their arms on the words ‘X Factor’ and to move in a simple series of steps if you wish.
- ‘Tango 1’:** A short tango step featuring Bruno, who wildly dances around Dusty in a very entertaining, exuberant style.

- ‘Tango 2’:** A longer tango built around the plot where the celebrity teachers are judging the couples. Daphne and Chad are competent, if a little highly strung. Davey is very exaggerated in his movements much to Sophie’s annoyance, while Fraser and Izzy are just comically incompetent.
- ‘Blue Skies’:** This is a solo song and should be performed with as much character as possible by the performer (Jenny Lane).
- ‘Rap Pack Audition’:** Emma and Rachel are now joined by Joe who does his ‘own thing’ with as much exaggerated comedy as possible.
- ‘Be Alive’:** This song is a big chorus, show-stopping number and should feature some dance moves by the dancers. It has a driving, rock rhythm and would suit sharp, dynamic movements.
- ‘Brand New Day’:** This song has a positive, 80s feel (almost a Madness parody). It should have some simple steps and arm movements to emphasise the upbeat feel and lyrical content.
- ‘The X Factor (Reprise)’:** This short reprise is purely character-driven by the actors.
- ‘Brand New Day’ (Reprise)’:** This song starts with Mr Quaver and his colleagues on their instruments and develops into a big chorus number with movements similar to Track 32.

COSTUMES

This show gives you an opportunity to explore costumes from TV celebrity game shows and either modern or 80s dress to suit the style of the music.

- Mrs Crabtree:** Fairly dowdy, old-fashioned clothes for an elderly headteacher. She could have a long tweed skirt and smart blouse and possibly a cardigan.
- Mr Sprout:** Fairly traditional but not too smart. Perhaps Corduroy trousers and a jacket with elbow patches and a cap. He does not quite match.
- Mr Quaver:** Fairly old-fashioned but friendly-looking music teacher. He could look like an eccentric professor with glasses and a tweed jacket.
- Ms Grimshaw:** Very neat and efficient-looking but fairly gaudy (possibly very pink) and overdressed. Perhaps she might wear winged glasses and have bouffant hair. She could be similar to Professor Umbridge in Harry Potter.
- Miss Blunt:** Extremely smart with glasses. She is younger than Ms Grimshaw but just as efficient and sharp-looking, although less extravagant.

- Mr Potter:** As the deputy head, Harold Potter would have a suit and be very smart. He might have a neat moustache.
- Miss Findley:** Traditional P.E. teacher with tracksuit and pony tail. Possibly she would wear a whistle round her neck.
- Madam Onions:** She is fairly extrovert in nature and might wear fairly garish colours and large knitted cardigans and scarves.
- Mrs Fudge:** Very old, dodderly teacher who is hard of hearing. She would wear drab, grey clothes including a knitted cardigan and a hearing aid.
- Davey:** He might wear very current clothing (or trendily accessorised if using school uniform). He is a bit rebellious so use costume to reflect this.
- Izzy:** She is very bright and well organised and so would have neat clothes that are trendy but also tasteful. If uniform is being used she would wear it well.
- Joe:** He is the computer and gaming expert so he might wear a video game-based cap, hoodie or T-Shirt.
- Fraser:** Fraser is the slightly awkward one. He is mad on sport so might have a football top, hat or scarf. If wearing uniform he might be a little scruffy.
- Emma and Rachel:** These two characters are very trendy and slightly ‘chavvy’ in appearance. This might include make-up; big, exaggerated accessories and jewellery and ‘hip-hop’ style caps and hoodies etc.
- Simon Trowel:** Based upon a certain TV talent show celebrity he would wear a black T-Shirt (with possibly a black jacket) and black trousers with a very high belt.
- Dusty Barrel:** Based upon a certain dance-based TV show judge, Dusty is very glamorous and well-dressed with an evening dress and jewellery.
- Bruno Macaroni:** Based upon another dance-based TV show judge. He is Italian and very well-dressed with a sharp suit and skinny tie. He may wear a buttonhole.
- Craig Rebel-Cardboard:** Another character based upon a dance-based TV show judge. He wears a white shirt with a bow tie and a smart dinner jacket.
- Will.I.Was** Based upon a TV talent show judge and rap star, Will is extremely extrovert and wears very elaborate, fashionable clothing, usually a hat and a trendy street-type jacket. Usually endowed with rings and large jewellery.
- Cherri Cola:** Based upon another TV talent show judge and pop star, she is extremely glamorous with bright lipstick, elaborate jewellery and a choker necklace. She often wears a white jacket although anything glamorous will do.
- Bant and Beck:** These two characters are based on two famous Geordie TV game-show hosts and must look similar in the way they dress.

Typically they wear white shirts and ties with a dark suit but always the same as each other.

- Sophie Le Brie:** Must look well-dressed and wear expensive clothes. Should look fairly snooty and superior. Needs a simple 'ripped' costume for Scene Eleven (perhaps to go over base clothes).
- Daphne Gorgonzola:** Very superior and traditionally well-dressed in a really austere way. Also needs a 'ripped' costume for Scene Eleven.
- Chadwick Roquefort:** Extremely rich and neatly dressed, perhaps with an Aaron scarf around his neck. Also needs a 'ripped' costume for Scene Eleven.
- Jenny Lane:** Jenny is a very talented singer but not big-headed. She would wear more sober and ordinary clothing to reflect her modest nature. Also needs a 'ripped' costume for Scene Eleven.
- Wilf Sprocket:** Elderly caretaker, he would wear a very traditional work overall or brown coat and boots.
- Gladys Overall:** Elderly cleaning lady, she would wear a work overall and rubber gloves, and her hair would be tied up with a mop cap or perhaps a large ribbon.
- Safety Inspector:** Very official-looking either with a suit and a clipboard or perhaps smartly dressed with a Hi-Vis jacket on top for health and safety. Very neat and tidy.
- Announcer:** Only appears once and must look very official (perhaps like a BBC announcer). This part could be played by anyone from a teacher to a small child as an extra role.
- Chorus:** The chorus could be dressed either as a distinct group or perhaps in a theme such as 80s colourful outfits or brightly-coloured T-shirts. This is entirely up to you and how you want your show to look.

LIGHTING AND SOUND

Lighting

If stage-type lighting is available, good use could be made of colour, especially in the showcase and the audition scenes, and particularly during the songs. In scenes nine and ten you should attempt to dim the lights to give the effect of early evening and then dusk. The final scene should be the most dramatic in terms of lighting as this emulates a performance. When the performance goes wrong then very random lighting changes would look good, even if it is just turning the hall lights on and off.

Sound

All the music required to stage this production, including sound effects, can be found on both the Vocal and Backing CDs. This includes overture, songs, raps, and all play-on, play-off and underscore music.

As a general principal when playing back these tracks (particularly sound effects), it is best to use reliable media player software which automatically pauses playback between tracks. We recommend iTunes, which works on PC and Mac. It can be downloaded for free from <https://www.apple.com/itunes/>. This results in smooth and seamless playback of all sound cues for an entire show, and is often easier, more flexible and more reliable than using a CD player.

For learning the songs, a fabulous product called **Sing It!** is also available. In CD-ROM or download format, its simultaneous audio/visual presentation can teach the songs to the children without any teacher input. Children can use it at school or at home, saving you valuable time! Most schools use it in class on an interactive white board, or in the school hall on the overhead projector to allow full cast practice.

If Radio mics are available it is best to use them on characters that sing solo parts in songs. Also, if you are using microphones at all, always position them behind the line of main speakers to avoid unnecessary feedback.

Sound Effects (SFX), Songs and Scene Change Music

The sound effects in this show are specifically designed to enhance the mood of the piece although it is sometimes possible to adapt some of them if you prefer live sounds that you can create (e.g. applause and booing). Adapt them freely, if you like, and feel free to experiment with different sounds so that they fit your own production.

If you have the luxury of a live pianist, a full Performance Score is also available (Grade 6), containing songs and all incidental music including overture, play-on, play-off and scene change music.

Scene One – St Dithers School Assembly

- Track 1** (Music) – **Overture**
This is a traditional overture lasting just over a minute to allow the cast on to the stage and to introduce some of the themes to the settling audience.
- Track 2** (Song) – **School Song**
This follows directly from the overture and it is a short, traditional-sounding song performed by the whole staff and students of St Dithers. The chorus can also join in as students. Mrs Crabtree, who scolds Mr. Quaver for improvising in his ‘pop music style’, interrupts the song.
- Track 3** (Music) – **Dramatic Piano Music**
This is a short burst from Mr. Quaver to add drama to the Ofset decision.

Track 4 (Song) – **Average**
Song performed at the end of the scene by the split groups. The teachers form one group while the chorus and students form the other part.

Track 5 (Music) – **Average – Transition Music**
A short musical reprise of the previous song to cover the scene change.

Scene Two – St Dithers Staff Room

Track 6 (Song) – **Average (Reprise)**
Song performed at the end of the scene by the teachers who can be joined in the second stanza by the chorus.

Scene Three – St Dithers Schoolyard

Track 7 (Song) – **Rap Pack**
A very short rap performed by Emma and Rachel in exaggerated ‘hip-hop’ style. This should have lots of gestures and attitude.

Scene Four – The School Hall

Track 8 (Music) – **X Factory Theme**
This music is in the style of a TV music talent theme and is used as a transition to the new regime where Simon Trowel introduces the new ‘Super-Teachers’ to the new St Dithers students.

Track 9 (Song) – **The X Factor**
This is a strong character song that (if possible) should be started by Simon. It includes suggested solo parts although these may be freely adapted depending on the talents of your cast. The parts can be doubled if required and sung as an ensemble. The chorus join in later.

Scene Five – Dance Auditions

Track 10 (Music) – **Dance Theme**
This short transition theme (based upon a TV dance reality show) helps to introduce the next scene and allows the stage to be set up for the dance auditions. Audience participation would be good, such as cheering and clapping from the chorus and the cast.

Track 11 (SFX) – **Applause 1**
This (as with all the audience-based sound effects) can be used in conjunction with your chorus to create the effect of having a live studio audience. Hopefully your real audience will join in.

Track 12 (Music) – **Tango 1**
A short tango where the teachers demonstrate some moves to the students. Bruno wildly dances around Dusty in a very entertaining style.

- Track 13** (Music) – **Tango 2**
An extended version of the previous tango where the students attempt to copy the steps they have just seen, to comic effect.
- Track 14, 15 & 16** (SFX) – **Applause 2 & 3 / Booing 1**
More audience-based effects. (See Track 11)
- Track 17** (Music & SFX) – **Dance Theme Exit**
This transition music allows the set to be changed for the next scene.

Scene Six – Interlude

- Track 18** (Music) – **X Factory Theme 2**
A piece of transition music (including audience applause) that takes us into the vocal audition scene and allows the judges time to move into position.

Scene Seven – Vocal Auditions

- Track 19** (SFX) – **Applause 4**
Another audience-based effect. (See Track 11)
- Track 20, 21 & 22** (SFX) – **Ahh! 1, 2 & 3**
These are audience-based effects to enhance the dialogue.
- Track 23** (Song) – **Blue Skies**
This is a solo song (sung by Jenny Lane). This is designed to give a talented singer the chance to perform a solo song. A boy could play this role, if you prefer, by making minor changes to the script.
- Track 24, 25 & 26** (SFX) – **Booing 2 / Applause 5 & 6**
More audience-based effects. (See Track 11)
- Track 27** (SFX) – **Applause 7**
Another audience-based effect. (See Track 11)
- Track 28** (Song) – **Rap Pack Audition**
A short rap performed by Emma, Rachel and Joe for their audition.
- Track 29** (SFX) – **Buzzer**
This follows 'Rap Pack Audition' and is co-ordinated with the panel pressing their buzzers on the desk to show that they dislike the performance.
- Track 30** (Song) – **Be Alive**
Performed by the student cast and chorus as a rehearsal of their big showcase number. This should be energetic and lively.

Scene Eight – The Schoolyard

Track 31 (Music) – **Be Alive Play-Off**

This is a short transition into the schoolyard scene.

Track 32 (Song) – **Brand New Day**

This is a positive song featuring the rebels and St Dithers teachers. There is scope for the chorus to join in too with some movement, if required.

Track 33 (Music) – **Brand New Day Play-Off**

This is a short transition reprise of the previous song designed to allow time for you to set the next scene up.

Scene Nine – After The Auditions

Track 34 (SFX) – **Creepy Night**

This is a short transition from the previous scene to show a passage of time. It sets the mood for late evening in a deserted building.

Scene Ten – Later That Night

Track 35 (Song) – **The X Factor (Reprise)**

This is a short character-based reprise of the Super-Teachers' song. Again, it can be performed in any way you wish and parts can be doubled or sung together in groups.

Track 36 (Music & SFX) – **Transition Into The Showcase**

This is a short transition into the next scene (The Showcase). It allows the cast to enter and the stage to be set. It is lively and has applause to give the impression that it is a live performance.

Scene Eleven – The Showcase

Track 37 (Music) – **Showcase Track Messed-Up**

This is the song 'Be Alive' where the entire track has been sabotaged. This should sound and look chaotic as the students try desperately to sing and dance along until they are halted at the end.

Track 38 (Song) – **Brand New Day (Reprise)**

This song builds from a short instrumental intro (by Mr Quaver and his colleagues) into a big production number featuring the rebels, staff and the chorus.

Track 39 (Music) – **Finale and Bows**

This medley acts as music for curtain bows but feel free to join in and sing the segments of songs if you wish.

SCENE ONE: ST DITHERS SCHOOL ASSEMBLY**TRACK 1: MUSIC - OVERTURE**

(As the music plays the chorus can take up their positions. The Headteacher, Mrs Wilma Crabtree and the two Ofset inspectors sit in the centre while the teaching staff are seated together on her right. The students file in and sit on the opposite side of the stage, some can actually join the audience. Mr Ernie Quaver, the music teacher should be positioned behind the school piano or something that looks like one. He is playing the piano in the school song. As he plays the introduction everyone stands to sing.)

TRACK 2: SONG - SCHOOL SONG

ALL: HERE AT ST DITHERS
WE FOLLOW RULES.
TEACHERS ARE WITH US,
THEY ARE NO FOOLS.

FLOORS SHINE AND GLEAM
IN OUR LOVELY SCHOOL.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE BEAMING:
OUR SCHOOL IS COOL!

(On the final note Mr Quaver gets carried away on the piano and starts to 'jazz it up'.)

MRS CRABTREE: *(Firmly)* Mr Quaver!!

(He can't hear her as he is enjoying himself too much, so she walks over and thuds the piano lid shut.)

MRS CRABTREE: Mr Quaver! How many times have I told you? We are not a pop group!

MR QUAVER: *(Disappointed)* Sorry Mrs Crabtree, I just thought I'd...

MRS CRABTREE: *(Interrupting)* Stop quivering, Quaver. Your job is not to think, it is to obey!

(Mr Quaver looks crestfallen while Mrs Crabtree walks back to her position to address the assembled students and staff, who are now sitting down. Next to her the Ofset inspection team led by Mrs Imelda Grimshaw, look very stern. The teachers of St Dithers look nervous and try to lighten the mood by smiling and waving at the inspectors. They are routinely ignored.)

MRS CRABTREE: *(To the assembly)* Boys, girls and members of St Dithers staff; I have assembled you to share with you the final conclusion of our recent inspection. As you know, the Ofset team *(She points to them)* have recently carried out a full and thorough inspection of our beloved school and it is now my pleasure to hand you over to the chief inspector Ms Grimshaw and her assistant Miss Blunt.

(There is a loud booing noise from someone in the assembly.)

MRS CRABTREE: Who was that?

(Everyone points to one of the teachers, Mr Sprout, who looks at the floor in a guilty manner.)

MRS CRABTREE: *(In disbelief)* Mr Sprout! Is there really any need?

MR SPROUT: *(Ashamed)* I'm sorry, Mrs Crabtree.

MRS CRABTREE: *(Resuming her composure)* Over to you Ms Grimshaw.

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Standing up holding her clipboard)* Good afternoon, everyone. As Mrs Crabtree has kindly mentioned, I am here to deliver the verdict of the Ofset team concerning the performance of this school. It is our considered decision that this school is...

TRACK 3:

MUSIC - DRAMATIC PIANO

MRS CRABTREE: *(Standing up and shouting towards the piano)* Mr Quaver! I don't think dramatic music is appropriate in this particular instance, do you?

MR QUAVER: *(Nervously behind the piano)* I'm sorry Mrs Crabtree... I just thought...

MRS CRABTREE: *(Abruptly)* Mr Quaver!! *(To Ms Grimshaw politely)* Please continue.

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Looking confused)* As I was saying, we find your school to be... Average!

(The entire school including students and staff jump up and down cheering and giving each other hugs and high-fives etc.)

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Shouting above the noise)* Excuse me! *(Louder)* Excuse me!

(She shrieks so loud that everyone suddenly freezes in position.)

MS GRIMSHAW: Excuse me!!! *(Resuming her composure)* If you please... Whereas in the past being average would have been acceptable for a school such as your own, it is now a requirement that every school is outstanding.

MISS BLUNT: *(Standing nervously)* Outstanding.

(Ms Grimshaw nods at her to sit down.)

MRS CRABTREE: *(Confused)* Excuse me Ms Grimshaw, you told me earlier that we had a very good school.

MS GRIMSHAW: *(In a patronising manner)* Ah yes, you have, but unfortunately most schools have become very good, so you are now just average.

MISS BLUNT: *(Standing)* Average. *(She sits down immediately)*

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Really milking it)* Even schools that were previously outstanding are now just good and they will eventually become...

MISS BLUNT: *(Stands quickly)* Average. *(She sits down immediately)*

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Looking annoyed)* Thank you, Miss Blunt!

MR POTTER: *(Standing irritably)* But that makes no sense at all.

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Smugly)* Mr Potter, we are not here to make sense, we are here to judge you. And you have been judged...

MISS BLUNT: *(Quickly)* Average. *(She sits down looking pleased with herself)*

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Snatching a huge book from Miss Blunt)* Here is your policy document. *(She hands it to Mrs Crabtree)* Mull it over at your leisure.

MR POTTER: *(In disbelief)* Nothing like a bit of light bedtime reading!

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Smugly)* Anyhow, we shall return in six weeks' time and unless we are satisfied that your school has become outstanding, we will be forced to close you down.

MISS BLUNT: *(Joining in)* Close you down, we will.

MR POTTER: *(Dismayed)* But that's not fair!

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Slowly)* No, because fair is not acceptable, only outstanding is, ha ha ha; just my little joke! *(Miss Blunt laughs in an exaggerated manner)* Come along, Miss Blunt; we have people to see and places to close, ha ha ha! Oh, I amuse myself sometimes.

(They exit laughing their heads off. As the song starts the Staff all rise looking really annoyed.)

TRACK 4:**SONG - AVERAGE**

TEACHERS: WE'RE TEACHERS, NOT CREATURES,
WITH FEELINGS INSIDE.
DON'T BEAT US, MISTREAT US
OR CAST US ASIDE.
DON'T BLAME US OR SHAME US;
WE'VE STILL GOT OUR PRIDE,
BUT DON'T YOU EVER CALL US AVERAGE!

STUDENTS: WE'RE STUDENTS, NOT MUTANTS;
DON'T TREAT US LIKE FOOLS.
WE'RE PUPILS, WITH SCRUPLES,
WHO FOLLOW THE RULES.
DON'T BRUISE US, ACCUSE US
OF SPOILING OUR SCHOOL;
AND DON'T YOU EVER CALL US AVERAGE!

ALL: WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
ALL THAT WE DO IS MAGIC!
I'M NOT AVERAGE.
YOU'RE NOT AVERAGE.
CALLING US THAT IS TRAGIC.
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
ALL THAT WE DO IS MAGIC!
DON'T YOU EVER CALL US AVERAGE!

TEACHERS:
WE'RE TEACHERS,
NOT CREATURES.

DON'T BEAT US,
MISTREAT US.

DON'T BLAME US
OR SHAME US.

DON'T YOU EVER CALL US
AVERAGE!

STUDENTS/CHORUS:
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
ALL THAT WE DO IS MAGIC!
I'M NOT AVERAGE.
YOU'RE NOT AVERAGE.
CALLING US THAT IS TRAGIC.
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
ALL THAT WE DO IS MAGIC!
DON'T YOU EVER CALL US
AVERAGE!

ALL: DON'T RAIN ON MY PARADE!

TRACK 5:**MUSIC - AVERAGE - TRANSITION**

SCENE TWO:**ST DITHERS STAFF ROOM**

(The teachers are all sitting and pacing around the staff room waiting for Mrs Crabtree. All of them are worried about the decision that has been made.)

- MR POTTER:** *(Pacing)* What are we going to do?
- MRS FUDGE:** *(Adjusting her hearing aid)* What did he say?
- MR SPROUT:** I can't afford to lose my job - I've got a wife and goldfish to support.
- MISS FINDLEY:** *(Worried)* What will happen to all the students if they close the school?
- MADAM ONIONS:** *(With a bad French accent)* Zay will all be sent to zat new super-school, 'St Inveenzible', down ze road.
- MRS FUDGE:** *(Shouting)* Eh?
- MR QUAVER:** Oh, that place! Rumour has it that they have their own torture chamber for the kids who misbehave.
- MR POTTER:** *(Sarcastically)* So have we, your school choir - they're torture to listen to.
- MR QUAVER:** *(Defensively)* I'll have you know that the Head Governor described our spring concert as "heart-warming and outstanding".
- MR POTTER:** No, he actually said you'd given him heartburn and he wished that he'd been out-standing in the foyer.
- MRS FUDGE:** *(To Mr Quaver)* I suffer dreadfully from heartburn myself.
- MADAM ONIONS:** *(Annoyed)* Meester Potter, you very rude man!
- MR POTTER:** *(To Madam Onions)* And as for your, so called, language lessons...
- MADAM ONIONS:** I will ave you know, all my students can speak perfect French.
- MR POTTER:** Madam Onions, putting on a silly French accent does not mean that they can speak the language!
- MADAM ONIONS:** Zis is outrageous! Zis is how all Engleesh people speak abroad.
- MR SPROUT:** *(Making fun of her)* No eet iz not!
- MADAM ONIONS:** I didn't know you spoke French.
- MISS FINDLEY:** Well at least no one can doubt the excellence of my PE students.
- MRS FUDGE:** What did she say?
- MR QUAVER:** *(Loudly in her ear)* P.E.
- MRS FUDGE:** No thank you, I went before.
- MR POTTER:** *(Smugly)* Well, the Hockey team are certainly the strongest team in the league, they're propping up all the rest. *(Laughs at his own joke)* Ha ha ha! Harold Potter, you've still got it.
- MISS FINDLEY:** *(Indignantly)* Well, as a matter of fact, the Ofset team highlighted fitness as a major strength in the school.
- MR POTTER:** No, what they actually said was that at the mere mention of doing any work, the kids ran a mile!

MR SPROUT: At least you'll be OK, Potter, you could always get a job at Hogwarts!

(Everyone starts to laugh.)

MR POTTER: Now look here...

(A mass argument starts until Mrs Crabtree enters looking very glum. They stop suddenly.)

MRS CRABTREE: I have news from the Governor's meeting.

MR POTTER: Do they have a solution?

MRS CRABTREE: Yes.

MR SPROUT: *(Worried)* A decision has been made?

MRS CRABTREE: Yes.

MR QUAVER: *(Terrified)* I can tell we're not going to like this.

MRS CRABTREE: No!

MADAM ONIONS: I 'ave an 'orrible feeling about zis.

MRS CRABTREE: Oui!

MRS FUDGE: I told you, I've been!

MISS FINDLEY: *(Screaming)* Tell us what they said!

MRS CRABTREE: *(Calmly)* I thought you'd never ask. The problem is that we have been declared as an average school...

ALL: Yes?

MRS CRABTREE: With average students...

ALL: Yes? *(Getting louder)*

MRS CRABTREE: And average teachers...

ALL: Yes? *(Louder)*

MRS CRABTREE: And we have six weeks to become outstanding?

ALL: Yes? *(Even louder)*

MRS CRABTREE: Well, it's impossible!

ALL: *(Very worried)* Yes?

MRS CRABTREE: What I mean is, it's impossible with the staff and students we have here.

MR SPROUT: *(Trembling)* So, what are they going to do?

MRS CRABTREE: Simple, get rid of the lot of you.

MADAM ONIONS: I knew I wouldn't like it!

MR POTTER: What, all of us?

MRS CRABTREE: Well, our beloved Governors felt it would be easier to replace the average students with really talented ones.

MR QUAVER: *(Outraged)* But my choir has lots of....

- MR POTTER:** *(Interrupting)* Don't even go there, Ernie!
- MRS CRABTREE:** What they felt was that we should become a school for superstars of the future, the sort of young people who might end up on TV talent shows.
- MISS FINDLEY:** What, a sort of X factory?
- MRS CRABTREE:** Exactly.
- MR SPROUT:** With no average students at all?
- MADAM ONIONS:** Strictly?
- MRS CRABTREE:** Well, eventually! The Governors will allow some of our current students to stay until they can replace them with more able ones. It's not ideal but Rome wasn't built in a day.
- MR QUAVER:** Neither was my career!
- MR POTTER:** *(Bluntly)* But you're both ancient ruins now!
- MR SPROUT:** So what are we supposed to do?
- MRS CRABTREE:** Well, if I were you I'd start packing your bags; they want you all gone by tomorrow.
- MR POTTER:** *(Steaming)* This is outrageous! What about my pension?
- MR QUAVER:** My choir?
- MR SPROUT:** My goldfish?
- MRS CRABTREE:** I'm sorry, there was nothing I could do. The new team of supertalent-spotters is arriving tomorrow to audition the lucky few that have been chosen to remain.
- MR QUAVER:** *(Hopefully)* Can we audition too?
- MR POTTER:** *(Patting him on the shoulder)* I think that ship has sailed, Ernie.
- MRS CRABTREE:** No. Unfortunately the new teaching staff has been appointed and letters have already gone out to parents informing them of the students and teachers who are to leave our establishment.
- MADAM ONIONS:** Poor dears!
- MR POTTER:** Poor us!
- MR SPROUT:** Poor Flipper!
- MRS CRABTREE:** I'm sorry, but you need to go!
- MRS FUDGE:** What did she say?
- MISS FINDLEY:** *(Shouting in her ear)* She says you need to go!
- MRS FUDGE:** I already told you, I've been!
- MISS FINDLEY:** No! Oh never mind.
- MR POTTER:** *(To Mrs Crabtree)* What about you, Mrs Crabtree? Are you sacked too?
- MRS CRABTREE:** Actually I've been given a nice retirement settlement, so I shall wish you all good luck and I'll be off to my lovely cottage in the countryside to sit by my fishpond and relax. Farewell, dear former colleagues.

(She exits with a large suitcase.)

MR QUAVER: *(Annoyed)* It's all right for her.
MISS FINDLEY: *(Sarcastically)* With her cottage in the country!
MADAM ONIONS: And her feesh pond!
MR SPROUT: I wonder if she's got room for Flipper?
MR POTTER: Well I'm not going to stand for it.
MR QUAVER: *(Seriously)* Then let's sing in protest!

TRACK 6: **SONG - AVERAGE (REPRISE)**

TEACHERS: WE'RE TEACHERS, NOT CREATURES,
 WITH FEELINGS INSIDE.
 DON'T BEAT US, MISTREAT US
 OR CAST US ASIDE.
 DON'T BLAME US OR SHAME US;
 WE'VE STILL GOT OUR PRIDE,
 BUT DON'T YOU EVER CALL US AVERAGE!

TEACHERS:
 WE'RE TEACHERS,
 NOT CREATURES.

DON'T BEAT US,
 MISTREAT US.

DON'T BLAME US
 OR SHAME US.

DON'T YOU EVER CALL US
 AVERAGE!

STUDENTS/CHORUS:
 WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
 WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
 ALL THAT WE DO IS MAGIC!
 I'M NOT AVERAGE.
 YOU'RE NOT AVERAGE.
 CALLING US THAT IS TRAGIC.
 WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
 WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
 ALL THAT WE DO IS MAGIC!
 DON'T YOU EVER CALL US
 AVERAGE!

ALL: DON'T RAIN ON MY PARADE!

SCENE THREE:**THE SCHOOLYARD**

(The next morning, Davey and Izzy, two of the returning students from St Dithers, are gathered in the schoolyard before the morning bell.)

DAVEY: *(Worried)* Have you heard the news?

IZZY: *(Studying the letter in her hand)* It's ridiculous!

(Fraser and Joe arrive not knowing anything about it.)

FRASER: *(Confused)* What's going on?

JOE: *(Looking around)* Where is everyone?

IZZY: *(Outraged)* They've all been expelled.

FRASER: What for?

DAVEY: For being average.

(Two girls, Rachel and Emma join them. Emma is reading a letter.)

RACHEL: *(Shocked)* Hey, have you heard what's happened?

EMMA: *(Pleased with herself)* Unbelievable! It's official, I'm above average!

DAVEY: No, you just happened to be off during the last tests we did.

RACHEL: *(Smugly)* I only passed 'cause I cheated.

JOE: Who says crime doesn't pay?

RACHEL: *(Laughing)* I swapped my paper with Suzie Toogood.

FRASER: That's terrible!

RACHEL: Serves her right, she's always showing off and calling me 'thick'.

JOE: Her dad'll go mad; he's always boasting about his 'perfect daughter'.

DAVEY: I guess she's not 'too good' to get kicked out!

IZZY: *(Puzzled)* Hey, Davey, how come you got kept on? No offence mate, but you're not exactly the school genius, are you?

DAVEY: I dunno, it could be because of my amazing dancing skills. *(He demonstrates one of his 'cool' moves)* I reckon I've got what it takes.

IZZY: *(Sarcastically)* If that's what it takes, you can keep it.

JOE: I've got a great singing voice, according to Mr Quaver.

EMMA: He told my Aunty Doris that she had a voice like a bird, and he's right.

RACHEL: Really?

EMMA: Yeah, shame it's a crow!

FRASER: If we have to audition, what are you gonna sing, Joe?

JOE: I dunno; perhaps I might try *(He sings a song very badly out of tune)*

ALL: *(Making an X shape with their arms)* NEXT!!

JOE: Do you think I should pick a different song?

EMMA: Yeah, and a different voice if you can!

RACHEL: *(With her hand on Joe's shoulder)* Don't take this the wrong way mate, but it's been nice knowing you.

FRASER: I don't suppose I could get away with showing how good I am on FIFA?

DAVEY: *(Sarcastically)* Yeah, I can see that being mind-blowingly entertaining.

IZZY: *(Showing him the letter)* Look, the letter says we have to prepare a performing talent to show the judges what we can do.

FRASER: I can do impressions!

RACHEL: *(Doubtfully)* Can you?

FRASER: Yeah, watch this *(He puts his arms out and freezes)*

DAVEY: What on earth is that?

FRASER: *(Looking pleased)* It's a tree!

(They all groan and look away.)

JOE: *(To Emma and Rachel)* What are you two going to do for your audition?

EMMA: *(Pleased with herself)* We're doing a rap.

DAVEY: You're kidding!

FRASER: No way?

RACHEL: *(High-fiving Emma)* Yes way!

EMMA: Feast your ears on this, dudes!

TRACK 7:**SONG - RAP PACK**

EMMA & RACHEL: WE'RE THE RAP PACK,
JUST DOIN' WHAT WE PLEASE;
TAKIN' SELFIES IN MACCY D'S.

(They take imaginary selfies.)

ON SNAPCHAT
THERE'S A PICTURE OF ME

(Show their imaginary phones.)

WITH A TAN FROM A CAN,
LIKE A GINGERBREAD MAN.

(Pointing at Fraser.)

WELL IT'S BETTER THAN HIS TREE,
LIKE, INNIT?

(They make a 'Selfie pose' while everyone else looks dumbstruck. They all just stare in amazement.)

JOE: *(Shaking his head)* We're in trouble, aren't we!

FRASER: Yep!

EMMA: *(Annoyed)* Charming!

DAVEY: Well, if they confuse confidence for talent we might be OK.

RACHEL: *(Aggressively)* Well, you can talk!

IZZY: Look, let's just see what happens. I mean, how bad can it be?

DAVEY: *(Positively)* That's the spirit!

JOE: *(Depressed)* We're doomed!

RACHEL: *(Sarcastically)* Well you certainly are!

FRASER: Don't be so negative!

RACHEL: *(Sarcastically)* Oh I'm sorry! *(Puts her arms out)* Look, I'm a tree!

DAVEY: OK, leave him alone. I think we need to split up for the auditions.

IZZY: Good idea. I'll go with Davey and Fraser to the dance auditions while you three try out your vocal skills.

EMMA: *(Confidently)* Yeah, bring it on!

RACHEL: *(Giving her a high-five)* Woo-hoo!
DAVEY: Come on, the bell's gone. We'll be late.

(They all exit as the X Factory theme begins.)

SCENE FOUR: **THE SCHOOL HALL**

TRACK 8: **MUSIC - X FACTORY THEME 1**

(The hall has been re-designed with all the 'super' staff sitting behind a panel and the students seated on stage facing them. Simon Trowel makes a big entrance at the end of the music.)

SIMON: *(Super confidently)* Morning everyone, my name is Simon Trowel, although *(Smugly)* I guess you know that already.
DAVEY: Hey, it's that dude off the telly!
SIMON: *(Continuing)* I'd like to spend a few minutes talking about my favourite subject; *(Smiles)* me!
IZZY: *(Sighing)* Yep, that's him all right.
SIMON: *(Smugly)* I am, what you might call, a world-renowned talent-spotter of the first order, an impresario extraordinaire and, of course, a musical genius!
FRASER: *(Whispering)* I used to be bigheaded, but now I'm perfect!
SIMON: Anyway, time to introduce the rest of my team and your new teaching staff. *(Pointing to Dusty)* From the world of dance, it's my pleasure to present Miss Dusty Barrel.

(Applause from the students and other staff.)

DUSTY: *(Standing)* Hello guys, nice to meet you. I'd just like to say...
SIMON: *(Interrupting)* That's enough for now Dusty, this is not all about you!

(She sits down deflated.)

SIMON: Also from the world of dance, although I think most of us think he's in a world of his own: *(Laughs at his own joke)* Boys and Girls, he's the one and only, Mr Bruno Macaroni. *(Pointing at Bruno)*

(There is applause from the students and other staff while Bruno blows kisses and bows in a very 'over the top' manner.)

BRUNO: *(Extravagantly)* ‘Allo little buttercups, it is my greatest delight and extraordinary pleasure to....

SIMON: *(Interrupting)* Enough! And last but not least, a world-renowned producer and choreographer...

CRAIG: I prefer intergalactic star, dear!

EMMA: *(Whispering)* Well, his head’s certainly as big as a planet!

SIMON: *(Pointing at Craig)* The one and only, Craig Rebel-Cardboard.

CRAIG: *(Giving a ‘royal wave’)* Greetings, Earthlings!

RACHEL: *(To Emma)* I wonder what planet he’s on?

SIMON: *(Moving across)* For those of you specialising in vocals, as well as myself of course, we have two outstanding talents from the pop music world. Firstly we have the ruler of rap and leader of the world famous band ‘The Blackberry Peas Puddings’, Mr Will.I.Was.

WILL: *(Giving a rapper pose)* Hey dudes, party on!

SIMON: And one of my own many discoveries from the world of pop, Miss Cherri Cola.

CHERRI: *(Standing)* Alreet pets!

IZZY: *(Laughing)* I think I prefer Pepsi myself.

SIMON: So these are our judges, *(Pause)* I mean teachers, of course. *(Smiles smugly)*

CHERRI: Eee, I’m a teacher now. Me mam would be so proud!

DUSTY: *(Sweetly)* Bless.

SIMON: Over the next few days we will be working you extremely hard and watching out for those of you who have that special something that we are looking for.

DAVEY: Somehow I don’t think we’re what they’re looking for.

EMMA: Speak for yourself!

SIMON: *(Continuing)* That indefinable quality...

RACHEL: What did he say?

SIMON: *(Continuing)* That intangible magic...

EMMA: Something about magic tangerines, I think!

SIMON: It’s a thing I like to call... The X Factor.

(The audience cheers. The song begins as Simon goes into an exaggerated pose.)

TRACK 9:**SONG - THE X FACTOR**

SIMON: IF YOU WANT TO BE LIKE ME:
TALENTED AND CHARMING,
TAKE MY GOOD ADVICE FOR FREE,
THOUGH IT'S QUITE ALARMING.

DUSTY: IF YOU'VE GOT THAT SPECIAL THING,
WE ARE HERE TO SPOT IT.

WILL: YOU CAN DANCE AND YOU CAN SING,
BUT IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT IT,
ALL TEACHERS: THERE'S A LONG WAY TO GO.

CHERRI: YOU CAN BE THE VERY BEST,
IF YOU LISTEN TO ME.

CRAIG: SHOW ME YOU CAN BEAT THE REST,
BRUNO: SHOW ME YOU CAN BOOGIE!
ALL TEACHERS: THERE'S A THING YOU SHOULD KNOW:

CHORUS: IT'S THE X FACTOR,
YOU CAN'T STEAL OR BUY IT.
WITH THE X FACTOR,
NO ONE DENIES IT.
WITH THE X FACTOR,
YOU JUST NEED TO TRY,
'CAUSE WITH THAT EXTRA FACTOR
YOU CAN REACH THE STARS.

SIMON: IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT YOU WANT,
JUST REACH OUT AND GET IT.

DUSTY: DON'T GIVE UP WHEN THINGS ARE ROUGH,
OR YOU WILL REGRET IT.

CHERRI: IF YOU'VE GOT THAT HIDDEN FLAME,
WE CAN HELP YOU LIGHT IT.

WILL: ONLY YOU CAN TAKE THE BLAME,
IF YOU DON'T IGNITE IT.

ALL TEACHERS: THERE'S A LONG WAY TO FALL.

CRAIG: NO ONE CARES FOR SECOND BEST;
GOT NO TIME FOR LOSERS.

BRUNO: LIKE A TIGER, BEAT THE REST;
BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS.

ALL TEACHERS: BE THE ONE WHO STANDS TALL.

CHORUS: IT'S THE X FACTOR,
YOU CAN'T STEAL OR BUY IT.
WITH THE X FACTOR,
NO ONE DENIES IT.
WITH THE X FACTOR,
YOU JUST NEED TO TRY,
'CAUSE WITH THAT EXTRA FACTOR
YOU CAN REACH THE STARS.

IT'S THE X FACTOR,
YOU CAN'T STEAL OR BUY IT.
WITH THE X FACTOR,
NO ONE DENIES IT.
WITH THE X FACTOR,
YOU JUST NEED TO TRY,
'CAUSE WITH THAT EXTRA FACTOR
YOU CAN REACH THE STARS.

(Exit Simon, Cherri and Will.)

SCENE FIVE: **DANCE AUDITIONS**

TRACK 10: **MUSIC - DANCE THEME**

(The three dance specialists are sitting behind a panel. Two smartly dressed young hosts, Bant and Beck, introduce the class to their teachers.)

BANT: *(Confidently)* Morning everyone, and it's time to find out who can cut the mustard when it comes to dancing.

BECK: *(Joining in)* That's right, Bant, it's a funny expression that, isn't it, cut the mustard? I mean I normally spread the mustard in my house.

BANT: Really, Beck? I prefer to put it on my roast beef. *(Laughs)*

BECK: *(Laughing)* Well, I've tasted your cooking, Bant, and I think I'll stick to takeaways if it's all the same with you!

BANT: Really, Beck? Did you not enjoy your Jelly last week?

BECK: *(Laughing)* Yes, well it certainly had an unusual flavour!

BANT: Hey Beck, it was an easy mistake to make! Mustard sounds a bit like custard, doesn't it, kids?

(They both fall about laughing.)

BECK: Anyway, on with the dancing, and it's time to hand you over to our top-class teachers.

BANT: Take it away!

(They exit. The audience applauds.)

TRACK 11:

SFX - APPLAUSE 1

BRUNO: *(Flinging his arms around)* Come on my little prodigies, don't be shy.

DUSTY: *(Friendly)* Find a partner, guys.

CRAIG: *(Impatiently)* Come on, we haven't got all day.

(The new students all pair up leaving one girl, Sophie, with no choice but to partner Davey.)

SOPHIE: *(Sternly)* Hello, I'm Sophie. I guess I'm stuck with you seeing as you're the only one left.

DAVEY: *(A little offended)* Hey thanks, that's no problem. I'm Davey.

SOPHIE: *(Worried)* I suppose you have danced before, haven't you? I mean I've trained with professionals all my life.

DAVEY: Hey, don't worry - I've got a few moves of my own, you know.

(He performs his very energetic dance move and everyone gasps in horror.)

CHAD: *(Baffled)* What on earth is he doing?

DAPHNE: *(His intense partner)* Never mind about those plebs, just focus. Be the best!

SOPHIE: *(To Davey)* Just try to keep up and don't make me look ridiculous!

DAVEY: *(Joking)* You don't need any help there!

SOPHIE: *(Snapping)* Pardon?

DAVEY: Oh, nothing at all.

CHAD: *(Whispering to Davey)* Good luck, and may the best man win, *(Nasty)* loser!

DAPHNE: *(Focused)* Concentrate, Chadwick!

BRUNO: *(Moving on to the floor with Dusty excitedly)* Right my little chickens, time to listen to Daddy Rooster.

FRASER: *(Partnering Izzy)* I wish he'd go and lay an egg!

BRUNO: *(Demonstrating)* We are going to spin around our partners like two passionate Argentinians prowling around the Pampas.

TRACK 12:

MUSIC - TANGO 1

(A short tango starts up and Bruno wildly dances around Dusty in a very entertaining style. The students all clap, but Craig just rolls his eyes.)

FRASER: *(To Izzy and Davey)* Personally, I haven't got a problem being chaff, whatever it means.

IZZY: It can't be good, I mean, you never see people eating 'Chaffabix'.

DAVEY: I think it means leftovers.

FRASER: *(Depressed)* That's us all right; 'The leftovers'!

DAVEY: Cool name though, *(As if in lights)* "Chaff".

FRASER: *(Joining in)* I can see it now, "The Revenge of the Chaff".

IZZY: Come on, there's no point in staying here. I don't think we're going to make the "Elite Dance Group".

(They start to sneak out.)

FRASER: *(Leaving with a revolution salute)* I'm Chaff and I'm proud.

(He exits, followed by Izzy and Davey.)

CRAIG: *(Making an announcement)* OK, I think we've seen enough. Now it's time for the judges' scores. Our first contestants were Daphne and Chadwick.

DUSTY: *(In 'Strictly' style)* I thought they were lovely together, a real blend of technique and style. *(Holds up a card with '9' on it)* Nine!

(The audience applauds.)

TRACK 14: **SFX - APPLAUSE 2**

BRUNO: *(Standing, waving his arms around)* Yes, like a perfect blend of sugar and spice making all things nice! *(Holds up a card with '8' on it)* Eight!

(The audience applauds.)

TRACK 15: **SFX - APPLAUSE 3**

CRAIG: *(Sarcastically)* Yes, that was even too sugary for you, Bruno!

BRUNO: *(Standing)* If you 'ave' it, flaunt it.

CRAIG: *(Grumpy)* And if you haven't, shut up! Personally I think they need to keep their legs straighter, their arms rounder, their heads more upright and their faces need more expression.

DUSTY: *(Annoyed)* Was there anything you DID like, Craig?

CRAIG: Well, their fingertips were OK, I suppose. *(Holds up a card with '5' on it)* Five!

(The audience boos.)

TRACK 16: **SFX - BOOING 1**

CRAIG: *(To the audience)* Boo all you like, it's my game! Anyway on to our second pair, *(Laughing sarcastically)* Fraser and Izzy.

DUSTY: Yes, well it was very original. I've never seen a couple actually fight during a dance before.

BRUNO: *(Standing)* I liked it! It had passion and brute force. It was like a gladiator and a lion battling to the death!

CRAIG: Yes, but unfortunately the lion won. As for this other pair...

(They look over.)

DUSTY: Oh, they've gone.

CRAIG: That's a shame, I was looking forward to destroying them. I mean, to give them some expert advice. Oh well, let's do it anyway. Ready?

(They all display a card with '0' on. The Audience Boo.)

TRACK 17: **MUSIC & SFX - DANCE THEME EXIT**

(The Dance judges exit and there is a large applause from the audience. Enter Bant and Beck.)

SCENE SIX: **INTERLUDE**

BANT: *(Holding a microphone)* Hello, and welcome back.

BECK: *(Laughing)* Hey, Bant, a little joke for you. Why do all Swedish, Norwegian and Danish ships have a bar code on them?

BANT: *(Joining in)* I don't know Beck, why do all Swedish, Norwegian and Danish ships have a bar code on them?

BECK: So they can Scan-der-navy-in. *(Hysterically laughing)*

BANT: *(Confused)* I don't get it.

BECK: So they can Scan-der-navy-in! *(Hammering home the punch line)*

BANT: *(Confused)* I still don't get it.

BECK: *(Explaining)* Well you see, Bant, they're all from Scandinavia and so... *(Giving up)* Oh, never mind!

- BANT:** *(To the audience)* Anyway, enough humour for now. It's time, ladies and gentlemen, to hear some of our fabulously talented vocal prodigies.
- BECK:** *(Confused)* Eh?
- BANT:** That's singers, Beck.
- BECK:** *(Happy)* Ah right! Hey, I've got a great voice ya know, Bant.
- BANT:** *(Interested)* Really? What's your range?
- BECK:** *(Confused)* Eh? Well, from here to the back of the hall, I guess.
- BANT:** *(Laughing)* No, I mean what type of voice have you got, you know, Tenor? Bass? Baritone?
- BECK:** *(Understanding)* Oh right, I see! Well, I suppose I must be a Tenor.
- BANT:** Have you always been a Tenor?
- BECK:** *(Confused)* Nah, when I was a kid I was only a fiver!
- BANT:** *(Seriously)* Seriously though, Beck, I'm a great singer myself!
- BECK:** *(Laughing)* I doubt it my friend, judging by the times I've seen you trying to open your front door!
- BANT:** *(Confused)* What's that got to do with it?
- BECK:** *(Laughing)* Well you can never find your key and you always come in late!
- BANT:** *(Groaning)* Oh mate, that's dreadful!
- BECK:** *(Laughing)* Aye, that's what the neighbours said when they heard you singing last week.
- BANT:** *(Pretending to be annoyed)* Well, let's hope our singing students have better luck with their judges.
- BECK:** *(To the audience)* Yes, Ladies and Gentlemen, let's meet our vocalists!

(The audience applauds and cheers.)

TRACK 18: **MUSIC - X FACTORY THEME 2**

(At the end of the theme tune the audience applauds and cheers loudly.)

SCENE SEVEN:**VOCAL AUDITIONS**

(The three Vocal specialists are sitting behind a panel. Bant and Beck are about to introduce a nervous young singer to the audience. She stands to the side as they talk into a mic.)

BANT: *(Friendly)* And welcome to our specialist panel of Judges who will put the contestants through their paces.

BECK: *(Pointing to the panel)* Yes, its Will.I.Was, Cherri Cola and Simon Trowell!

(The audience applauds.)

TRACK 19:**SFX - APPLAUSE 4**

BANT: *(Bringing Jenny between them)* And our first young hopeful is a young lady from... *(Name of local area)*

BECK: *(To Jenny)* Please tell us your name. *(Points the mic at her)*

JENNY: *(Nervously)* Jenny Lane.

(Bant and Beck both sing 'Jenny Lane' to the tune of 'Penny Lane')

BANT & BECK: *(Singing badly)* Jenny Lane is in my ears and in my eyes... *(They laugh)*

SIMON: Well, Jenny, I hope you're a bit better than these two clowns!

BANT: *(Mock affronted)* Hey Simon, you're just jealous because we've got trousers that actually fit us. *(Laughs)*

BECK: *(Back to Jenny)* Tell me Jenny, are you nervous?

JENNY: *(Smiling)* A little bit.

BANT: *(Seriously)* And Jenny, have you a story for us?

JENNY: *(Confused)* What, like Snow White or Cinderella?

BECK: *(Laughing)* No, no, at this point most of our contestants have a sad story that makes the audience go 'Ahh!'

(He conducts the audience in their 'Ahhs'.)

TRACK 20:**SFX - AHH! 1**

BECK: *(Smiles at the audience)* Aye, that's the idea!

JENNY: *(Nervously)* No, sorry. I just really want to be a singer.

BANT: *(Closer to her)* No aunties with measles or dead hamsters that you'd like to dedicate your song to?

JENNY: *(Thinking)* Well, I suppose I could dedicate it to my family who have always supported and encouraged me through some very tough times.

(The audience 'Ahh' louder.)

TRACK 21: **SFX - AHH! 2**

BECK: *(To Jenny wiping away a tear)* Aye, that's the idea!

JENNY: *(Growing in confidence)* Especially my mum, who told me to believe in my dreams.

(The audience 'Ahhs' louder again.)

TRACK 22: **SFX - AHH! 3**

BANT: *(Crying)* Ee, that's lovely.

JENNY: I had no confidence in myself but they gave me strength to do this.

BECK: *(Trying to stop her)* Yes, well that's lovely, but...

JENNY: *(More confidently again)* And I'd also like to thank my...

BECK: *(Sternly pulling away the mic)* Alreet pet. Don't milk it!

JENNY: *(She stops and smiles)* Sorry.

BANT: *(To the audience)* So now, without further ado, *(Pause then big gesture)* please give a massive welcome to JENNY LANE!

(The audience applauds and cheers over the introduction to Track 23, during which Beck passes Jenny his microphone and he and Bant both exit. The Judges watch with notepaper in front of them.)

TRACK 23:**SONG - BLUE SKIES****JENNY LANE:**

EVERY MORNING I WAKE UP,
SEE THE MIRROR LOOKING BACK AT ME;
NOTHING CAN STOP ME.
WHEN I THINK OF WHO I WAS,
EVERYBODY LOOKING DOWN ON ME,
WHERE HAS IT GOT ME?

NOW THE DARK HAS CLEARED;
THOSE THUNDER CLOUDS HAVE DISAPPEARED.
THE SUN HAS RISEN, ONCE AGAIN I SEE
BLUE SKIES.

NOW I'M HERE AGAIN,
NO FEAR AGAIN FOR ME.
SKIES ARE CLEAR AGAIN,
NO TEARS AGAIN;
NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW.

WHEN THE DAYS ARE LONG AND HARD,
AND MY TROUBLES GET ON TOP OF ME;
YOU'RE THERE TO GUIDE ME.
WHEN IT SEEMS THAT JOY IS BARRED,
THERE'S AN ANGEL STANDING OVER ME;
YOU'RE THERE BESIDE ME.

NOW THE DARK HAS CLEARED;
THOSE THUNDER CLOUDS HAVE DISAPPEARED.
THE SUN HAS RISEN, ONCE AGAIN I SEE
BLUE SKIES.

NOW I'M HERE AGAIN,
NO FEAR AGAIN FOR ME.
SKIES ARE CLEAR AGAIN,
NO TEARS AGAIN;
NOTHING CAN STOP ME.

NOW I'M HERE AGAIN,
NO FEAR AGAIN FOR ME.
SKIES ARE CLEAR AGAIN,
NO TEARS AGAIN;
NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW.

(The song finishes with Jenny standing Centre Stage while the applause dies down.)

CHERRI: *(Enthusiastically)* Ee pet, that was lovely, you've got a super voice.
WILL: *(Laid back)* I was, ya know, like, blown away, man! Epic girl, epic!
BANT: *(In the microphone)* Simon?
SIMON: *(Very calmly)* Well, I've heard a lot of average singers since I've been here.

(The audience boos in anticipation of a bad review.)

TRACK 24: **SFX - BOOING 2**

SIMON: *(Enjoying the moment)* But... I have to say that this wasn't one of them. In fact I might even go so far as to say that, Jenny, that was almost... acceptable.

(The audience cheer.)

TRACK 25: **SFX - APPLAUSE 5**

CHERRI: *(Enthusiastically)* So, I guess that's a yes from each of us, pet. You're going into the showcase!

(The audience claps and cheers wildly as Jenny bows and walks off, returning Beck's microphone on her way offstage.)

TRACK 26: **SFX - APPLAUSE 6**

BANT: *(To the audience)* Next up, I believe we have a rapping trio.
BECK: *(Laughing)* Sounds like a job you do at a sweet factory, Bant.
BANT: *(Laughing)* Yes Beck, I've heard of a singing trio but never one that raps before.
BECK: *(Looking at his notes)* Well Bant, it says here they used to be an all-girl duo featuring Emma and Rachel but they've now brought in a friend of theirs called Joe.
BANT: *(Laughing)* Yes, it also says that he only joined yesterday because he couldn't sing.
BECK: *(Amazed)* Well, at least they're honest, Bant. Let's hope he can rap then!
BANT: *(Laughing)* Yeah, we used to be rappers, didn't we, Beck.
BECK: Aye, let's give 'em a blast!

(They both start to rap enthusiastically.)

BANT & BECK: *(Rapping)* Let's get ready, let's get ready, let's get ready to tumble!
Let's...

SIMON: *(Irritated)* Can we please get on with it; I'd like my dinner at some point!

BECK: *(Disappointed)* All right, keep your hair on!

WILL: *(To Simon)* Hey man, I was enjoying that!

BANT: *(Happy)* Cheers Will, at least you appreciate talent.

WILL: Hey guys, we'll have to lay down some tracks later.

SIMON: *(Sarcastically)* Unfortunately Will, the age of the railway is long since gone, *(Pointing at Bant and Beck)* a bit like their pop career.

BANT: *(Slightly hurt)* Thanks, Simon!

BECK: *(Continuing)* Anyway, on with the auditions. Please give a massive welcome to... The Rap Pack! *(Points to the wings)*

(Emma, Rachel and Joe shuffle on to the stage nervously as the audience applaud politely. Bant and Beck move to the side of the stage.)

TRACK 27: **SFX - APPLAUSE 7**

SIMON: *(Rudely)* What a dreadful name!

CHERRI: *(Encouragingly)* OK, let's see what you've got, darlings.

WILL: *(With a rap gesture)* Yeah man, like, lay it on us, dudes!

EMMA: *(To Rachel)* Yeah! Whatever that means!

RACHEL: *(To Joe)* OK Joe, don't mess this up.

JOE: *(Terrified)* I'll try not to.

EMMA: *(To the sound desk)* OK DJ, HIT IT!

(As the track starts, Rachel and Emma make cool rapper poses while Joe dances around in a crazy fashion adding 'Woo!' 'Wow!' and 'Yeah!' to the rap at random moments, much to the disgust of Emma and Rachel who are taking it seriously.)

SIMON: Goodbye!

(Emma, Rachel and Joe start to mope off in defeat while Bant and Beck return.)

EMMA: *(Annoyed)* Thanks, Joe!

JOE: *(Surprised)* Don't blame me!

RACHEL: *(To Joe)* Yeah, what was that? *(pointing to the stage)*

JOE: Ah, you people just don't appreciate originality!

(Bant and Beck stand centre stage looking a little worried.)

SIMON: Next!

BANT: *(Embarrassed)* Well, that's all there is for now, Simon.

SIMON: *(Shocked)* What?

BECK: Yes, all the rest are terrified; you've scared them off!

SIMON: Wimps!

BANT: *(Improvising)* Anyway, in the absence of any more victims... erm... I mean contestants, we thought it might be a good idea to try out the big chorus number they've been working on.

CHERRI: *(Excited)* Ee, that's a good idea.

BECK: It'll give a chance for all the young hopefuls to practise their big finale routine.

WILL: Neat!

SIMON: Well, I suppose it's better than nothing, what's the song about?

BANT: It's all about living for the moment.

BECK: A celebration of life.

BANT: Learning to be strong!

BECK: To be brave!

BANT & BECK: *(Big gestures)* To 'BE ALIVE'!

(The audience claps and cheers wildly as the cast of singers and dancers assemble to perform their routine number 'Be Alive'.)

TRACK 30:**SONG - BE ALIVE****ALL:**

WAKING UP EVERY DAY,
LOOKING TO THE BIG SKY.
NOTHING STANDS IN MY WAY,
DREAMS ARE GONNA FLY.

ONE DAY I WILL KNOW;
MY MOMENT WILL ARRIVE.
TIME FOR ME TO SHOW
I'M FEELING ALIVE.

WORKING HARD EVERY DAY,
GOING FOR THE BIG TIME.
FORTUNE'S COMING MY WAY,
GONNA MAKE IT MINE.

ONE DAY I WILL KNOW;
MY MOMENT WILL ARRIVE.
TIME FOR ME TO SHOW
I'M FEELING ALIVE.

BE ALIVE, BE ALIVE;
WELCOME TO THE BIG TIME!
BE ALIVE, BE ALIVE;
LIGHTS ARE GONNA GLOW!

BE ALIVE, BE ALIVE;
WELCOME TO THE SHOW!
BE ALIVE, BE ALIVE;
WATCH ME AS I GO.

LIVING LIFE FOR TODAY,
DREAMING 'BOUT TOMORROW.
LIFE IS GOING MY WAY,
THINGS ARE ON A ROLL.

ONE DAY I WILL KNOW;
MY MOMENT WILL ARRIVE.
TIME FOR ME TO SHOW
I'M FEELING ALIVE.

BE ALIVE, BE ALIVE;
WELCOME TO THE BIG TIME!
BE ALIVE, BE ALIVE;
LIGHTS ARE GONNA GLOW!

BE ALIVE, BE ALIVE;
WELCOME TO THE SHOW!
BE ALIVE, BE ALIVE;
WATCH ME AS I GO;
BE ALIVE!

TRACK 31:**MUSIC - BE ALIVE PLAY-OFF****SCENE EIGHT:****THE SCHOOLYARD**

(During the Play-Off track, the cast all exit congratulating each other. The six disappointed St Dithers students meet up in the yard after their failed attempts to audition.)

FRASER: *(Depressed)* What are we going to do?

IZZY: Well the way I see it, we have three options.

ALL: Yes?

IZZY: *(Counting on her fingers)* Option One, we need to become talented.

JOE: *(Shaking his head)* Moving on swiftly...

IZZY: Option Two, we get kicked out!

DAVEY: And?

IZZY: And what?

EMMA: Option Three?

IZZY: Erm... Well, there isn't one.

RACHEL: *(Irritated)* I thought you said we had three options?

IZZY: Yeah, it just sounds good! Options nearly always come in threes. *(Looking around at their bemused faces)*. Apparently not for us though.

DAVEY: We need to think. What can we do really well?

RACHEL: *(Smiling)* Cheat!

JOE: You do have a talent for that, I must admit.

IZZY: We need a plan!

FRASER: *(Sarcastically)* A cunning plan?

DAVEY: You watch too much T.V.

IZZY: *(Excited)* Hey, that's a good point.

JOE: What do you mean?

IZZY: *(Thinking)* We might not have conventional talents...

EMMA: *(Confused)* Eh?

RACHEL: *(Explaining to Emma)* She means normal talents.

IZZY: *(Continuing)* But we are all really good at something.

JOE: *(Excited)* I'm really good at computer games!

EMMA: *(Sarcastically)* Yawn!!

IZZY: *(Enthusiastically)* Hey, it's not just about performing on stage you know, there are loads of jobs needed in putting on a show.

JOE: Like?

DAVEY: *(Joining in)* Like technology. You can use computers really well.

IZZY: Exactly, there's loads of technology involved in a production.

DAVEY: Yeah, lighting, sound, video. It goes on.

RACHEL: *(Joking)* So do you, mate!

FRASER: *(Getting the idea)* I can tell you anything you want about football.

DAVEY: See, memory man. That's bound to be useful.

EMMA: *(Cheerfully)* I'm good at plotting.

RACHEL: *(Laughing)* And cheating!

IZZY: Let's call it creative outmanoeuvring.

DAVEY: And I've got no fear.

EMMA: *(Laughing)* Certainly no fear of embarrassment, having watched you dance!

IZZY: And I'm good at organising.

JOE: You mean, being bossy!

IZZY: I prefer to call it a leadership skill, if you don't mind? *(Pleased with herself)*

JOE: *(Whispering to Davey)* Still being bossy, if you ask me.

EMMA: She's right; we have all got our own talents.

RACHEL: *(Laughing)* Yeah, weird, but useful all the same.

DAVEY: Well, I'm up for it.

FRASER: Yeah, what have we got to lose?

(They all agree.)

IZZY: Come on, let's make a plan. *(Starts to walk away)*

JOE: *(Whispering to Davey)* See what I mean? Bossy!

IZZY: *(Turning back)* I heard that!

(Suddenly they spot a group of six miserable-looking adults in the distance. They are walking along outside the school gate. They are the old St Dithers teaching staff.)

DAVEY: Look at those poor, downtrodden people over there. *(pointing at them)*

FRASER: Yeah, poor old souls, we don't want to end up like them!

EMMA: Hang on, they look familiar.

RACHEL: *(Realising)* OMG! It's the old teachers!

IZZY: *(Looking over)* Hey, you're right. What's happened to them?

DAVEY: *(Shouting across at them)* Hey, is it really you?

(The six teachers cautiously approach.)

IZZY: *(Gently)* What have they done to you?
MR SPROUT: *(Holding out his cap)* Could you spare us a few pennies, my fish hasn't eaten in days!
MR POTTER: *(Taking charge)* Not now, Reg. *(To the students)* I guess you've all been rejected as well?
MISS FINDLEY: *(Dramatically)* Cast aside like an old rag!
EMMA: Yeah, I suppose we have.
RACHEL: *(With attitude)* Yeah, except less of the old in our case!
MR QUAVER: *(Depressed)* Don't worry, you get used to it.
MADAM ONIONS: *(Crying out dramatically)* How az zis 'appened to us?
MR QUAVER: *(Looking at her)* Well, perhaps not!
FRASER: I can't believe it, I actually feel sorry for our teachers.
JOE: *(To Fraser)* See, I told you they're not so bad.
IZZY: *(Gently)* What are we all going to do?
DAVEY: I think we need to put all our talents together.
MISS FINDLEY: *(Thinking)* I am a county netball player!
MADAM ONIONS: *(Uncertain)* I can speak five languages...
MR SPROUT: I can speak 'fish'...
MR QUAVER: I can play the piano...
MR POTTER: *(Confidently)* I have a degree...
MRS FUDGE: *(Mishearing)* Yes please, I'd love a cup of tea!

(They all look at her.)

MISS FINDLEY: *(Comforting her)* It's OK, Ethel.
EMMA: So how are we going to get our school back?
RACHEL: *(Amazed)* Yeah, I can't believe it, I actually miss my old school.
IZZY: *(Positively)* We need to get everyone together.
JOE: Yeah, I'd love to put one over on those smarmy new teachers.
FRASER: And those snooty new students.
DAVEY: We are every bit as good as them!
EMMA: And so are our teachers!
MISS FINDLEY: *(Tearfully)* Thank you, Emma!
RACHEL: *(Positively)* Let's be positive!
MADAM ONIONS: Let's look on ze bright side.
MR POTTER: Let us triumph in the face of adversity!

CAST:

AFTER THE RAIN
I'LL PUT THE CLOUDS BEHIND ME.
EVERY DAY'S A BRAND NEW DAY.
AFTER THE RAIN,
PROBLEMS ARE ALL BEHIND ME.
EVERY DAY'S A BRAND NEW DAY.

CHORUS:

AFTER THE RAIN,
BEHIND ME OOH,
DAY, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.
AFTER THE RAIN,
BEHIND ME OOH,
DAY.

ALL: BRAND NEW DAY,
BRAND NEW DAY,
BRAND NEW DAY!

TRACK 33: MUSIC - BRAND NEW DAY PLAY-OFF**SCENE NINE: AFTER THE AUDITIONS**

(The auditions have finished and there is a mess left in the school hall. Wilf, the caretaker is starting to tidy up after a long day. Gladys, the cleaner, is offstage.)

WILF: *(Sadly)* Oh no! Gladys, come and look at this mess.
GLADYS: *(Coming over)* Yes, I thought our kids were bad but these new 'Super-Kids' are even messier.
WILF: *(Annoyed)* It's not just the kids, look. *(He picks up a photo)* That Simon Trowel has left signed photos of himself everywhere.
GLADYS: *(Pulling some gum from under Will's chair)* And that 'Will.I.Was' has put chewing gum all over his chair!
BOTH: *(Disgusted)* Yuk!
WILF: *(Sighing)* Aye, they don't know they're born, do they, Glad?
GLADYS: No Wilf, you're right there.
WILF: Mind you, they can all sing and dance.
GLADYS: Aye, I'll give them that, Wilf.
WILF: Do you know what, Gladys; I used to be a good dancer when I was a lad.
GLADYS: *(Laughing)* Oh Wilf, I couldn't see you as a dancer somehow.
WILF: *(Remembering)* Oh yes, I had all the moves, you know; *(Starts dancing with his broom)* the Waltz, the Quick Step, the Tango!
GLADYS: *(Laughing)* Hey, I used to have a figure like that broom, you know!
WILF: *(Joking)* I bet you did, Gladys. Mind you, I need to 'brush up' on some of me moves.
GLADYS: *(Joining in)* Aye, you could 'sweep me' off my feet, Wilf. *(Laughing)*
WILF: *(Seriously)* Eh Glad, do you remember what it was like to be young?

GLADYS: *(Smiling)* Oh, yes Wilf, all them dances we used to go to.
WILF: Hey, I bet you were a good dancer yourself.
GLADYS: *(Smiling)* Oh yes, although ballroom was never my thing.
WILF: Ah, there's nothing like a Foxtrot.
GLADYS: *(Horried)* Oh no, Wilf, that's cruel. I mean, them poor animals chased by all them dogs!
WILF: *(Laughing)* No Gladys, I meant the dance!
GLADYS: *(Laughing)* Oh, silly me, I see what you mean.
WILF: *(Puts his broom down)* Shall I teach you?
GLADYS: *(Embarrassed)* Oh Wilf, you'll have me blushing.
WILF: *(Puts his arms in a dance position)* It's easy. Here, take my hand.

(As she does, an officious-looking person appears between them carrying a clipboard and pen.)

INSPECTOR: *(Abruptly)* That's close enough! Move apart!
WILF: *(Shocked)* Who the heck are you?
INSPECTOR: *(Smugly)* Who I am, is of no consequence. What I am is the new Ofset Health and Safety Inspector!
GLADYS: *(Embarrassed)* I didn't even know we had one!
INSPECTOR: *(Importantly)* I have been employed by the new board of Governors to help improve standards of health and safety in this educational establishment.
WILF: *(Confused)* You what?
INSPECTOR: And, if I may offer an opinion, not a moment too soon.
GLADYS: Eh?
INSPECTOR: Yes, I'm afraid to say that I have found standards sadly wanting in this institution.
GLADYS: *(Confused)* I thought it was a school?
INSPECTOR: Yes madam, it is, and may I suggest that you and your 'friend' refrain from this extremely reckless and dangerous behaviour!
WILF: *(Annoyed)* What are you talking about?
GLADYS: *(Worried)* We were only dancing.
INSPECTOR: You were, in fact, a fire hazard. *(He gets out a tape measure)*
WILF: *(In disbelief)* What?
INSPECTOR: *(He measures the distance between Wilf and Gladys)* According to new government guidelines, a safe distance must be maintained at all times between flammable objects in a theatrical performance.
WILF: *(In disbelief)* But we're not objects, we're people!
INSPECTOR: *(Pointing to his clipboard)* Have you been sprayed with a flame retardant substance?

WILF: Er... No, but...

INSPECTOR: Well then Sir, I'm afraid you qualify as a fire hazard, as do all the cast in this performance.

GLADYS: *(In disbelief)* But how?

INSPECTOR: Well, put it this way, if one of you were to catch fire, you would immediately ignite anyone within range. It could cause a rapid and uncontrollable conflagration that would place the entire establishment at risk.

WILF: That's just daft!

INSPECTOR: It's not daft, Sir, it's the rules!

WILF: So if I were to move a step nearer to Gladys... *(He moves nearer to her)*

INSPECTOR: *(Placing his clipboard between them)* That's close enough, Sir!

GLADYS: *(Annoyed)* But what about the audience?

INSPECTOR: *(Horrified)* You've got an audience?? *(He looks out front in horror)*

WILF: Well, of course we've got an audience!

INSPECTOR: *(He marches into the audience and starts measuring them)* Oh no, this is terrible! Do you people realise you could have this entire place up in smoke? Oh dear, oh dear, I'm going to have to report this! *(He returns back on stage)*

WILF: Who are you going to report it to?

INSPECTOR: *(Whispering)* To she-who-must-be-obeyed. *(He looks up in the air)*

GLADYS: *(Looking up too)* Who is 'she'?

INSPECTOR: *(Shushing her)* I cannot name her for she has powers we cannot imagine!

WILF: *(Looking around)* But there's no-one here!

INSPECTOR: *(Shushing him)* Oh don't be fooled, Sir. She has eyes and ears everywhere!

WILF: *(Casually)* Yeah, I knew a girl like that once, odd-looking lass she was.

INSPECTOR: *(Shushing him)* Shh! She controls everything that goes on in the school!

GLADYS: *(Smiling)* Oh, you mean*(NAME OF SCHOOL SECRETARY or WELL LOVED TEACHER)*

INSPECTOR: No, she is even more powerful. She has spies all around us!

(At this point the three characters freeze on stage while an announcer comes on.)

ANNOUNCER: *(To the audience)* At this point the author would like to point out that all the characters portrayed in this play are entirely fictional and bear no resemblance to anyone alive, dead or anywhere in between!

(The announcer walks off and the action resumes.)

WILF: *(Picking up his broom)* Right then, we'd better get on with it.

(He starts to brush the floor.)

INSPECTOR: Just a minute, Sir! *(Snatching his broom from him)* How long is that broom?

WILF: *(Dismayed)* How would I know?

INSPECTOR: *(Measuring the broom)* Just as I thought! It's five centimetres longer than regulations. I'll have to cut it down to size!

WILF: *(Seething)* It's not the only thing that needs cutting down to size!

GLADYS: *(Restraining Wilf)* Now then, Wilf! We don't want any trouble!

INSPECTOR: *(Smiling sickly)* Very sensible, Madam. I'm off now to report my findings back to *(Looks around and whispers)* You-know-who! *(To Wilf)* I don't think she'll take kindly to your attitude, Sir.

(He snaps his tape measure shut and walks off carrying Wilf's broom.)

WILF: *(Seething)* I know where I'd like to stick his tape measure!

GLADYS: *(Restraining him)* Now then, Wilf! Come on, we've got the rest of the school to clean before tomorrow, and it's getting late.

WILF: *(Calming down)* OK Gladys, I suppose you're right.

(They exit as the Creepy Night Music starts.)

TRACK 34: **SFX - CREEPY NIGHT**

SCENE TEN: **LATER THAT NIGHT**

(The lights dim as the six rebel students creep in. They are wearing dark clothes and disguises such as beanie hats and scarves around their faces. Joe and Fraser walk backwards into one another and both jump in fright.)

FRASER: *(Jumping)* Watch it!

JOE: *(With a bright coloured stocking - pink if possible - over his head)* It's not my fault! I can't see with this thing over my head.

EMMA: *(Shining a torch at them)* Shut up you two, or you'll get us caught!

RACHEL: *(Whispering)* Anyway, you need the disguises, there are cameras all around us.

JOE: *(Sulking)* I don't know why I got this one though; it's not exactly cool is it?

IZZY: *(Whispering)* It was the only one left and you were late to the meeting!

DAVEY: *(Laughing)* You snooze, you lose, bro!

IZZY: *(Seriously)* Right, you all know what to do!

FRASER: *(Saluting)* Yes, boss!

DAVEY: *(Defending her)* Leave her alone; someone has to be in charge!

JOE & FRASER: *(Mocking him)* Ooh!

DAVEY: *(Embarrassed)* Shut up, you two!

IZZY: *(Seriously)* Come on, let's get on with it, the show is next week and we might not get another chance.

(They all sneak around in different directions. Joe finds a laptop computer and takes out his screwdriver.)

JOE: *(Excited)* Found it! This is where they store all their sound and light information. *(Starts tapping furiously at the keys)* This'll be a doddle!

IZZY: *(To Davey)* Davey, you'd better guard the door for intruders. *(To Fraser)* Fraser, can you remember those numbers I read to you?

FRASER: *(Confidently)* Well of course, you're talking to 'Memory Man'.

IZZY: *(To Emma and Rachel)* OK you two, it's time to do your stuff, girls!

RACHEL: Come on Ems, let the sabotage begin!

(They give each other a 'high-five'.)

EMMA: *(Revealing a large pair of scissors)* Bring it on!

(They start to cut up a costume that is hanging up.)

JOE: *(Excited)* OK gang, I've hacked into their main lighting and sound system. *(To Fraser)* Are you ready with those numbers, Frase?

FRASER: Any time you like, Joey boy!

(He starts whispering a series of numbers to Joe while Joe types them in enthusiastically.)

IZZY: *(To Emma and Rachel)* How are you two ladies doing?

RACHEL: *(Holding up a completely destroyed piece of costume)* I'd like to see them perform in that!

EMMA: *(Holding her scissors)* Job done!
JOE: *(Closing the laptop lid)* That's it, sorted!
FRASER: Yeah! I can't wait to see them at their next rehearsal.
DAVEY: *(Panicked)* Quick, hide! It's the teachers, they're all here!
IZZY: *(Anxiously)* What? Quick, get out of sight!

(They all hide out of sight of the teachers, who sneak in.)

SIMON: *(Looking around)* Good, no one is here.
WILL: *(Confused)* Hey man, what's the deal?
SIMON: *(Checking again)* Look, I'm sorry for the late meeting but I've just had an important phone call.
CRAIG: *(Casually)* Really? I get them all the time!
CHERRI: Who was it, Simon?
BRUNO: *(Dramatically)* Was it like a Bat-signal shining majestically in the night sky?
SIMON: No Bruno. It was on my mobile.
CHERRI: Who was it from, Simon?
WILL: Yeah man, spill the beans, like.
SIMON: Actually it was from Offset.
BRUNO: Oh yeah? And wadda they want?
SIMON: Well, they've decided to bring the showcase inspection forward a tad.
DUSTY: Forward? When?
SIMON: *(Casually)* Tomorrow!
ALL: *(Panicking)* What?
SIMON: *(Calmly)* All right, all right! Let's not get into a flap!
CHERRI: But Simon man, the show's not ready yet!
WILL: Yeah man, like what she said!
DUSTY: Some of the dances are good but they need tightening up!
BRUNO: *(Dramatically)* Yes, err... like a beautiful flower before it has had the chance to fully blossom!
CRAIG: *(Casually)* Try watering it!
SIMON: *(Calming them down)* Look, there's nothing we can do. I know we all want it to be perfect but no matter how rough it is it'll be good enough to convince that team of old amateurs that we can be trusted to control their precious little school!
CRAIG: *(Sinister)* Then we can proceed to the second part of your wicked plan, Simon. *(Laughs creepily)*
WILL: Hey man, like err... what plan?
CRAIG: You know, the one where we turn the school into a factory to turn talented kids into money-making reality T.V. stars!

(After the song they laugh in a sinister way and exit, leaving the rebels to gradually emerge.)

IZZY: *(Whispering)* Did you hear that?

DAVEY: *(Angry)* I know, it's terrible!

RACHEL: It's evil!

EMMA: It's Cruel!

JOE: It's Diabolical!

IZZY: And that was just their singing!

(They all look at Fraser who has headphones on and is nodding to music.)

FRASER: *(Looking around at them)* What??

EMMA: Don't tell me you missed all that!

FRASER: *(Taking off his headphones)* Err... sorry! What happened?

DAVEY: *(Bitterly)* It's the new teachers; they're planning to make all the talented kids world-famous!

FRASER: *(Not quite understanding)* The fiends!

IZZY: *(Seriously)* No Fraser, this is serious! They don't know they've been tricked into signing really dodgy contracts!

DAVEY: Yeah, the kids can be used for their talents and then dumped as soon as they've served their purpose!

JOE: *(Outraged)* They're worse than politicians!

EMMA: And what's more, the Showcase is tomorrow!

FRASER: *(Positively)* Don't forget, we've sabotaged their performance already!

IZZY: *(Thinking)* True, but it's not enough!

DAVEY: Yeah, they'll still close the school even if the new staff and students fail.

IZZY: Exactly, we've got to somehow show them that we deserve to be here on our own merits.

RACHEL: We're gonna need help for that!

IZZY: *(Agreeing)* You're right, and I know the people who can help us.

FRASER: Sounds like we've got a long night ahead of us!

DAVEY: Never a truer word spoken, buddy boy!

IZZY: *(Determinedly)* They tried to call us average. Well, we are going to show them exactly what 'average' people can do!

(They all exit led by Izzy.)

TRACK 36: MUSIC & SFX - TRANSITION INTO THE SHOWCASE

SCENE ELEVEN:**THE SHOWCASE**

(The lights come up in the school hall with Simon and the staff on one side and the Ofset inspection team on the other. The new 'Super-Students' are 'backstage' in their ripped costumes, apparently ready to perform their routine.)

- SIMON:** *(Confidently)* Teachers, students, parents, governors and not forgetting members of our esteemed and highly respected Ofset team, I welcome you all to St Dithers for our end of term showcase performance.
- SOPHIE:** *(Entering to get his attention)* Sir?
- SIMON:** *(Ignoring her)* Our talented students have been working extremely hard to produce a.....
- SOPHIE:** *(Louder)* Sir?
- SIMON:** *(Getting irritated)* ...fantastic show for you...
- SOPHIE:** *(Even louder)* Sir??
- SIMON:** *(Snapping)* WHAT?
- SOPHIE:** *(Holding up a torn dress)* The costumes are ruined!!
- SIMON:** *(Irritated)* Oh really! *(To Dusty)* I thought you said they were all ready?
- DUSTY:** *(Taking a look at them)* They were!
- WILL:** *(Opening his laptop)* Hey man, we've been hacked!
- BRUNO:** Wadda ya mean??
- CHERRI:** *(Trying to help)* Simon, you really need to see this!
- SIMON:** *(Irritated)* What is it now?
- WILL:** *(Looking at the screen)* All the lighting and sound cues have been changed.
- SIMON:** *(Seething)* Amateurs!!
- MS GRIMSHAW:** *(Standing)* Is there a problem, Mr Trowel?
- SIMON:** *(Smiling nervously)* Erm... no, not at all, Ms Grimshaw.
- MS GRIMSHAW:** Well, may we proceed?
- SIMON:** *(Sickly grin)* Ms Grimshaw, may I call you Imelda?
- MS GRIMSHAW:** *(Bluntly)* No, you may not!
- DAPHNE:** *(In the distance)* I'm not wearing that!
- SIMON:** *(Stalling for time)* Ms Grimshaw, we have a few minor technical hitches that I'm sure we can sort out in a few.....
- CHAD:** *(In the distance)* She looks ridiculous!
- MS GRIMSHAW:** *(Writing on her clipboard)* Mr Trowel, I am not in the habit of being kept waiting!
- SIMON:** Of course not, Ms Grimshaw.
- MS GRIMSHAW:** *(Writing on her clipboard)* Well then, kindly get on with it!

CRAIG: *(Casually)* It can't be worse than some of the drivel we've seen!
SIMON: *(Anxiously to Will)* Are you ready yet, Will?
WILL: *(Still typing furiously)* Hey man, this is gonna take time, we've been seriously, like, duped, man!
SIMON: *(Irritated)* We haven't got time!
MS GRIMSHAW: *(Overhearing)* Precisely. Mr... erm 'I Was', begin now or forever hold your peace!
WILL: *(Stopping suddenly)* OK man, you asked for it!
DUSTY: *(Trying to stop them)* WAIT!

(It's too late, the music starts and a group of dancers appear in rags while the backing track is a complete mess. People valiantly try to sing 'Be Alive' but it is a shambles.)

TRACK 37: MUSIC - SHOWCASE TRACK MESSED-UP

(During the track the performers gallantly try to sing and dance their well-rehearsed routine but it is a disaster. Various people try to shout instructions over the din.)

CHERRI: *(Astonished)* Oh heck. It's awful!
BRUNO: *(Shouting over the din)* Make it stop. Make it stop!
MISS BLUNT: *(Covering her ears)* I've got a headache!
DUSTY: *(Trying to stop it)* That's enough!
WILL: *(Still typing)* Hey, I quite like it!
MS GRIMSHAW: *(Shouting)* Mr Trowel, I think we've seen enough!
DUSTY: HELP!!
SIMON: *(Irritated)* All right, stop the music. *(He can't be heard)*
CHERRI: What's going on?
BRUNO: It'za 'orrible!
CRAIG: *(Casually)* It's like the rebirth of 'Girls Aloud'!
CHERRI: *(Upset)* Thanks, Craig!
SIMON: *(In despair)* All right, that's enough!
WILL: *(Nodding to the music)* What?
SIMON: *(Louder)* I said STOP!
WILL: *(Shouting)* WHAT?
SIMON: *(Louder still)* STOP!!!!

(Eventually the track ends in feedback, the performers collapse on the floor and there is silence while everyone looks at Ms Grimshaw for her reaction.)

MS GRIMSHAW: Is it... modern?

CRAIG: *(Back to being a judge)* Appalling!

BRUNO: It waz like a beautiful butterfly turned into a slug!

MS GRIMSHAW: Well I think I've seen enough. *(She stands up with Miss Blunt)* You shall receive my full report in the morning, Mr Trowel.

(She starts to leave until Davey suddenly appears, backed up by the other five rebels.)

DAVEY: *(Bravely stepping forward)* Wait a minute, Miss!

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Astonished)* Sorry? Who is this?

IZZY: *(Joining him)* This is Davey, my name is Izzy and we are the kids you tried to get rid of!

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Shocked)* Pardon?

EMMA: *(Fist-pumping)* We're the rebels!

RACHEL: The vigilantes!

FRASER: The Chaff! *(Everyone looks at him, confused)* Just an expression!

MISS BLUNT: *(To Ms Grimshaw)* Are they going to kill us?

IZZY: *(Overhearing)* No, of course we're not going to kill you!

DAVEY: *(Laughing)* Although, it's not a bad back-up plan!

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Calming down)* OK young man, you have our attention, what do you want?

SIMON: *(Butting in)* Ms Grimshaw, is this really necessary?

MS GRIMSHAW: Sit down Mr Trowel, you've had your go and we all know how that ended!

(He sits down humiliated while there is laughter from the other students.)

DAVEY: *(Seriously)* All we want is a chance to show what we can do.

IZZY: *(Passionately)* This is our school. We are proud of it and we want it back again!

(Suddenly Mrs Crabtree enters and speaks in a booming voice.)

MRS CRABTREE: *(Loudly and clearly)* Well said, Izzy!

(Everyone gasps.)

EMMA: *(Waving)* Hi Miss!

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Shouting)* Shut up girl, and sit down!

MRS CRABTREE: Don't you shout at my students! This is my school, my staff, my students and I'm proud of every single one of them!

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Facing up to her)* And whom do you think you are addressing?

MRS CRABTREE: *(Rising even taller)* I am addressing YOU, Madam. I am the Headteacher of St. Dithers School and let me tell you *(Pokes her)* we are NOT Average!

(The rebels cheer.)

JOE: *(To Ms Grimshaw)* So stick that in your pipe and smoke it!

MRS CRABTREE: *(Firmly)* Joe!!

JOE: *(Worried)* Too far, Miss?

(Mrs Crabtree nods, smiling at him.)

IZZY: *(Passionately)* Please just give us a chance, Miss. You've taken away our school, our teachers and our pride. Give us one chance to show you that we are not average. We are all amazing!

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Pompously)* Well Miss, you've talked the talk, now walk the walk!

IZZY: *(Smiling)* Thank you.

DAVEY: *(Shouts across to the piano)* OK Ernie! HIT IT!

(Mr Quaver has magically appeared at the piano surrounded by the rest of the St Dithers staff all holding various musical instruments. He starts to play his 'jazzed up' version of the school song. Everyone starts to sing.)

TRACK 38: SONG - BRAND NEW DAY (REPRISE)

ALL: IN THE RAIN
 THINGS LOOK BLEAK WHILE SKIES ARE GREY.
 THEN AGAIN,
 THERE MUST COME A SUNNY DAY.

CAST:
EVERYONE SAYS I DON'T BELONG;
TIME THAT I DARE TO PROVE THEM WRONG.

CHORUS:
WRONG.
DARE TO PROVE THEM WRONG.

AFTER THE RAIN
I'LL PUT THE CLOUDS BEHIND ME.
EVERY DAY'S A BRAND NEW DAY.
AFTER THE RAIN,
PROBLEMS ARE ALL BEHIND ME.
EVERY DAY'S A BRAND NEW DAY.

AFTER THE RAIN,
BEHIND ME OOH,
DAY, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.
AFTER THE RAIN,
BEHIND ME OOH,
DAY, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.

ALL: THROUGH THE NIGHT
THOUGHTS CAN LEAD YOU TO DESPAIR.
LOSING SIGHT
TILL YOU WAKE AND HOPE IS THERE.

EVERYONE WANTS A BETTER CROWD.
YOU CAN BE BEST SO SHOUT OUT LOUD.

CAST:
AFTER THE RAIN
I'LL PUT THE CLOUDS BEHIND ME.
EVERY DAY'S A BRAND NEW DAY.
AFTER THE RAIN,
PROBLEMS ARE ALL BEHIND ME.
EVERY DAY'S A BRAND NEW DAY.

CHORUS:
AFTER THE RAIN,
BEHIND ME OOH,
DAY, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.
AFTER THE RAIN,
BEHIND ME OOH,
DAY, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.

AFTER THE RAIN
I'LL PUT THE CLOUDS BEHIND ME.
EVERY DAY'S A BRAND NEW DAY.
AFTER THE RAIN,
PROBLEMS ARE ALL BEHIND ME.
EVERY DAY'S A BRAND NEW DAY.

AFTER THE RAIN,
BEHIND ME OOH,
DAY, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.
AFTER THE RAIN,
BEHIND ME OOH,
DAY.

ALL: BRAND NEW DAY,
BRAND NEW DAY,
BRAND NEW DAY!

(After the song there is a general sense of congratulation. Eventually all eyes are fixed upon Ms Grimshaw and the Ofset team. Meanwhile some of the new students tentatively approach the rebel group.)

JENNY: *(Smiling)* That was amazing! If you're starting a band, can I join? I've never really fitted in with this lot. *(Points at the 'Super-Students')* I don't think I've got the right image!

IZZY: *(Smiling)* Hey Jenny, You're more than welcome.

EMMA: Yeah, you've got an amazing voice!

RACHEL: *(Patting her back)* Consider yourself one of the gang!

(Jenny smiles.)

SOPHIE: *(Quietly)* And I'm really sorry for the way we treated you all.

DAPHNE: Yes, so are we, although we don't want to be in your gang or anything!

CHAD: No, 'obvs', although we think you're really quite OK after all!

DAVEY: *(Enthusiastically)* Wow! High praise indeed!
MS GRIMSHAW: *(Clearing her throat)* Ahem!
FRASER: *(Confidently)* And what do you want?
MS GRIMSHAW: *(Dismayed)* Is no-one interested in what I've got to say?
JOE: *(Laughing)* No, not really!

(They all laugh.)

MS GRIMSHAW: Well as it happens, I'm going to recommend that the school is NOT average after all!
IZZY: We don't need you to tell us that!
MRS CRABTREE: *(Humbly)* No you don't, and I am so sorry I ever doubted you myself. I should have stood up to them in the first place.
MS GRIMSHAW: *(Leaving)* Well I think our work is done here. Good luck until next time. *(To Miss Blunt who is hypnotized by what she has seen)* Miss Blunt!

(Miss Blunt snaps out of her daze and follows, waving. Both of them exit.)

MR POTTER: *(Nervously)* Does that mean we can have our old jobs back?
MR SPROUT: *(On his knees)* Please take us back!
MADAM ONIONS: *(Shivering)* It's zo cold out zere!
MRS CRABTREE: *(Astonished)* Don't tell me you've been waiting outside all this time?
MISS FINDLEY: We had nowhere else to be!
MRS FUDGE: A cup of tea? That would be nice!
GLADYS: I'll put the kettle on. Come on Wilf, we can practise our dance steps!
WILF: OK Gladys, I'll get my broom.
GLADYS: You won't be needing that, Wilf.

(She winks at him and they exit.)

MR QUAVER: I'm just so happy that thanks to these wonderful youngsters, I finally got to play my song.
DAVEY: *(Enthusiastically)* I think you've got a hit on your hands, Mr Quaver!

(Everyone laughs.)

BANT: *(Appearing with Beck)* Hey guys, that was awesome!
BECK: *(To the audience with microphone)* It's official, St Dithers has talent!

SIMON: *(Eventually piping up)* And where, exactly, do we fit into this cosy little plan?

MRS CRABTREE: *(Enjoying the power)* Oh, I think you know the answer to that, Mr Trowel.

CRAIG: *(Casually)* I suppose we could work with some of the riff-raff if necessary.

MRS CRABTREE: *(Annoyed)* And whom are you calling 'riff-raff' Mr Rebel-Cardboard?

CRAIG: It's nothing personal, Madam!

MRS CRABTREE: *(Pointing at him)* You're FIRED!

CHERRI: *(Amazed)* Ye cannot dee that!

DUSTY: We're professionals!

MRS CRABTREE: *(To the 'Super-Teachers')* Actually, You are all fired! *(They start to leave.)* Off you go!

BRUNO: *(Turns back and sinks to his knees)* NO! Please! I beg you!

ALL REBELS: *(Mock waving)* Bye!

(He crawls off crying.)

WILL: *(Looking back)* But I'm a celebrity!

EVERYONE: *(Pointing at him)* GET HIM OUT OF HERE!

(All the cast cheer and hug each other leading into the bows.)

TRACK 39: **FINALE/BOWS**

(This medley can be sung or just walked through. After everyone has gone the Safety Inspector appears carrying the clipboard and looking at the audience.)

INSPECTOR: *(Pointing at the audience)* What are you lot still doing here? Don't you realise you are causing a serious health and safety issue. Come on, GET OUT!! *(Ad-lib until the end)*

PHOTOCOPIABLE LYRICS

Track 2:

School Song

All:

Here at St Dithers
We follow rules.
Teachers are with us,
They are no fools.

Floors shine and gleam
In our lovely school.
That's why we're beaming:
Our school is cool!

Track 4:**Average**

Teachers: We're teachers, not creatures,
With feelings inside.
Don't beat us, mistreat us
Or cast us aside.
Don't blame us or shame us;
We've still got our pride,
But don't you ever call us average!

Students: We're students, not mutants;
Don't treat us like fools.
We're pupils, with scruples,
Who follow the rules.
Don't bruise us, accuse us
Of spoiling our school;
And don't you ever call us average!

All: We're not average.
We're not average.
All that we do is magic!
I'm not average.
You're not average.
Calling us that is tragic.
We're not average.
We're not average.
All that we do is magic!
Don't you ever call us average!

Teachers:
We're teachers,
Not creatures.

Don't beat us,
Mistreat us.

Students/Chorus:
We're not average.
We're not average.
All that we do is magic!
I'm not average.
You're not average.
Calling us that is tragic.

Don't blame us
Or shame us.

We're not average.
We're not average.
All that we do is magic!

Don't you ever call us
Average!

Don't you ever call us
Average!

All: Don't rain on my parade!

Track 6:

Average (Reprise)

Teachers: We're teachers, not creatures,
With feelings inside.
Don't beat us, mistreat us
Or cast us aside.
Don't blame us or shame us;
We've still got our pride,
But don't you ever call us average!

Teachers:
We're teachers,
Not creatures.

Don't beat us,
Mistreat us.

Don't blame us
Or shame us.

Don't you ever call us
Average!

Students/Chorus:
We're not average.
We're not average.
All that we do is magic!
I'm not average.
You're not average.
Calling us that is tragic.

We're not average.
We're not average.
All that we do is magic!
Don't you ever call us
Average!

All: Don't rain on my parade!

Track 7:**Rap Pack**

Emma & Rachel: We're the Rap Pack,
Just doin' what we please;
Takin' selfies in Maccy D's.

On snapchat
There's a picture of me

With a tan from a can,
Like a gingerbread man.

Well it's better than his tree,
Like, innit?

Track 9:**The X Factor**

- Simon:** If you want to be like me:
Talented and charming,
Take my good advice for free,
Though it's quite alarming.
- Dusty:** If you've got that special thing,
We are here to spot it.
- Will:** You can dance and you can sing,
But if you haven't got it,
- All Teachers:** There's a long way to go.
- Cherri:** You can be the very best,
If you listen to me.
- Craig:** Show me you can beat the rest,
Bruno: Show me you can boogie!
- All Teachers:** There's a thing you should know:
- Chorus:** It's the X factor,
You can't steal or buy it.
With the X factor,
No one denies it.
With the X factor,
You just need to try,
'Cause with that extra factor
You can reach the stars.
- Simon:** If there's something that you want,
Just reach out and get it.
- Dusty:** Don't give up when things are rough,
Or you will regret it.
- Cherri:** If you've got that hidden flame,
We can help you light it.
- Will:** Only you can take the blame,
If you don't ignite it.

All Teachers: There's a long way to fall.

Craig: No one cares for second best;
Got no time for losers.

Bruno: Like a tiger, beat the rest;
Beggars can't be choosers.

All Teachers: Be the one who stands tall.

Chorus: It's the X factor,
You can't steal or buy it.
With the X factor,
No one denies it.
With the X factor,
You just need to try,
'Cause with that extra factor
You can reach the stars.

It's the X factor,
You can't steal or buy it.
With the X factor,
No one denies it.
With the X factor,
You just need to try,
'Cause with that extra factor
You can reach the stars.

Track 23:**Blue Skies**

Jenny Lane: Every morning I wake up,
See the mirror looking back at me;
Nothing can stop me.
When I think of who I was,
Everybody looking down on me,
Where has it got me?

Now the dark has cleared;
Those thunder clouds have disappeared.
The sun has risen, once again I see
Blue skies.

Now I'm here again,
No fear again for me.
Skies are clear again,
No tears again;
Nothing can stop me now.

When the days are long and hard,
And my troubles get on top of me;
You're there to guide me.
When it seems that joy is barred,
There's an angel standing over me;
You're there beside me.

Now the dark has cleared;
Those thunder clouds have disappeared.
The sun has risen, once again I see
Blue skies.

Now I'm here again,
No fear again for me.
Skies are clear again,
No tears again;
Nothing can stop me.

Now I'm here again,
No fear again for me.
Skies are clear again,
No tears again;
Nothing can stop me now.

Track 28:**Rap Pack Audition**

Emma & Rachel: We're the Rap Pack,
Just doin' what we please;
Takin' selfies in Maccy D's.

On snapchat
There's a picture of me

With a tan from a can,
Like a gingerbread man.

We're the Rap Pack!
Just doin' what we like;
Anybody else can take a hike.

With a backpack,
Just get on your bike.
We're the girls with the pearls
And the yellow-tipped curls.
There's no-one on the mic but me!

Track 30:**Be Alive**

All: Waking up every day,
Looking to the big sky.
Nothing stands in my way,
Dreams are gonna fly.

One day I will know;
My moment will arrive.
Time for me to show
I'm feeling alive.

Working hard every day,
Going for the big time.
Fortune's coming my way,
Gonna make it mine.

One day I will know;
My moment will arrive.
Time for me to show
I'm feeling alive.

Be alive, be alive;
Welcome to the big time!
Be alive, be alive;
Lights are gonna glow!

Be alive, be alive;
Welcome to the show!
Be alive, be alive;
Watch me as I go.

Living life for today,
Dreaming 'bout tomorrow.
Life is going my way,
Things are on a roll.

One day I will know;
My moment will arrive.
Time for me to show
I'm feeling alive.

Be alive, be alive;
Welcome to the big time!
Be alive, be alive;
Lights are gonna glow!

Be alive, be alive;
Welcome to the show!
Be alive, be alive;
Watch me as I go;
Be alive!

Track 32:**Brand New Day**

All: In the rain
Things look bleak while skies are grey.
Then again,
There must come a sunny day.

Cast:
Everyone says I don't belong;
Time that I dare to prove them wrong.

Chorus:
Wrong.
Dare to prove them wrong.

After the rain
I'll put the clouds behind me.
Every day's a brand new day.
After the rain,
Problems are all behind me.
Every day's a brand new day.

After the rain,
Behind me Ooh,
Day, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
After the rain,
Behind me Ooh,
Day, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

All: Through the night
Thoughts can lead you to despair.
Losing sight
Till you wake and hope is there.

Everyone wants a better crowd.
You can be best so shout out loud.

Cast:
After the rain
I'll put the clouds behind me.
Every day's a brand new day.
After the rain,
Problems are all behind me.
Every day's a brand new day.

Chorus:
After the rain,
Behind me Ooh,
Day, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
After the rain,
Behind me Ooh,
Day, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Cast:

After the rain
 I'll put the clouds behind me.
 Every day's a brand new day.
 After the rain,
 Problems are all behind me.
 Every day's a brand new day.

Chorus:

After the rain,
 Behind me Ooh,
 Day, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
 After the rain,
 Behind Me Ooh,
 Day.

All: Brand new day,
 Brand new day,
 Brand new day!

Track 35:**The X Factor (Reprise)**

Simon: If you want to be like us,
 You must be the villain.

Craig: Use their talent, save the fuss,
 Make yourself a killing,

Both: Then your fortune will grow!

Teachers: Use the X factor:
 You just steal or buy it.
 With the X factor,
 No one denies it.
 With the X factor,
 You just need to try,
 'Cause with that extra factor
 We can reach the stars.

Use the X factor:
 You just steal or buy it.
 With the X factor,
 No one denies it.
 With the X factor,
 You just need to try,
 'Cause with that extra factor
 We can reach the stars.

Track 38:**Brand New Day (Reprise)**

All: In the rain
Things look bleak while skies are grey.
Then again,
There must come a sunny day.

Cast:
Everyone says I don't belong;
Time that I dare to prove them wrong.

Chorus:
Wrong.
Dare to prove them wrong.

After the rain
I'll put the clouds behind me.
Every day's a brand new day.
After the rain,
Problems are all behind me.
Every day's a brand new day.

After the rain,
Behind me Ooh,
Day, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
After the rain,
Behind me Ooh,
Day, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

All: Through the night
Thoughts can lead you to despair.
Losing sight
Till you wake and hope is there.

Everyone wants a better crowd.
You can be best so shout out loud.

Cast:
After the rain
I'll put the clouds behind me.
Every day's a brand new day.
After the rain,
Problems are all behind me.
Every day's a brand new day.

Chorus:
After the rain,
Behind me Ooh,
Day, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
After the rain,
Behind me Ooh,
Day, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Cast:

After the rain
I'll put the clouds behind me.
Every day's a brand new day.
After the rain,
Problems are all behind me.
Every day's a brand new day.

Chorus:

After the rain,
Behind me Ooh,
Day, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
After the rain,
Behind me Ooh,
Day.

All:

Brand new day,
Brand new day,
Brand new day!

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